Daily Report

Latin America

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Roundup of Economic Developments 10 Oct to 2 Nov

PA2710165093

[Editorial Report] Following are reports on economic developments monitored in Latin America media sources from 10 to 25 October. Source information is given in parentheses following each item.

Inter-American

The inflation rate increase in Central American countries has been moderate so far this year. As of September 1993, Costa Rica had an cumulative inflation rate of 5.9 percent, the lowest in the region, followed by Guatemala with 8.24 percent, El Salvador with 9.6 percent, Honduras with 10.5 percent, and Nicaragua with 21.62 percent. Panama enjoyed monthly inflation rates of under 0.4 percent. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1848 GMT 23 Oct 93)

Colombia

EL TIEMPO's seventh economic opinion poll reveals that national production and sales increased between July and September 1993 although expectations were not surpassed. The poll was conducted among 300 businessmen from nine different sectors. Most of them agree that production could be higher than expected by the end of the year. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Oct 93 pp 1a, 1c)

Finance Minister Rudolf Hommes said next year's increase in gasoline prices should be below the projected inflation rate of 19 percent and urged businessmen and workers to reach a consensus on salary raises. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Oct 93 pp 1, 1b)

According to a quality of life study by Banco de la Republica, 40 percent of all Colombian citizens live in poverty, while 19 percent live in conditions of absolute poverty. The report also reveals that 20 percent of the richest families in the country have 46.7 percent of the nation's total income. (Paris AFP in Spanish 2355 GMT 19 Oct 93)

A report from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) states that Colombia's economic growth for 1993 will probably be 5 percent. The IDB believes that most of the support for the economic growth will come from the private sector, which will take advantage of low interest rates and the modernization of the production sector. The IDB believes that intraregional trade will also bolster the economy, due to Colombia's integration with Venezuela and Ecuador. The IDB also stated that the public sector's nonfinancial deficit will be 1.5 percent, due to the 25-percent increase in the salaries of public employees, Army and police members, and the subsidies to the transportation sector. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 20 Oct 93, p 1B)

During the 60th ordinary sessions of the Commission of the Cartagena Agreement, Colombia and Venezuela agreed on their common external tariff for all trade products, and it will go into effect, within the Andean Pact, on 1 January 1994. The two countries were able to resolve their differences regarding 800 trade products, and Colombian Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos said this was a substantial and important advance within the integration process of the Andean Group. The Andean Pact member countries agreed to establish a common external tariff at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in order to have a more solid position. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 22 Oct 93, p 3B)

The National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) has reported that Colombia's industrial production grew by 3.77 percent during the first six months of the year, whereas in the same period in 1992 the industrial production grew by 5.05 percent. The small percentage of growth for 1993 was due to the coffee crisis and the stalk-boring worm, which caused coffee production to drop from 18 million bales during the 1991 to 1992 coffee year to 14.9 million bales during the 1992 to 1993 coffee-year. If the coffee sector is excluded from the balance, however, the remainder of the productive industry shows a 5.65-percent growth during 1993, as compared to 2.6 in 1992. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Oct 93, p 1-C)

The corporation Invest in Colombia, Coinvertir, has reported that foreign investment in Colombia that accumulated to September 1993 amounted to $395.06 million—55.4 percent up from the same period in 1992. Foreign investment in September amounted to $58.08 million, representing a 49.4-percent increase when compared to the same period in 1992. Foreign investment in August 1993 amounted to $91.32 million, the highest so far this year. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 26 Oct 93, p 3B)

Juan Manuel Santos, Colombian foreign trade minister, inaugurated in Cali the 29th Plenary Meeting of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar-Exporting Countries (Geplacea) and criticized the industrialized countries' agricultural protectionism, especially regarding sugar production. He said that such a problem can only be confronted at the GATT. Santos also advised that sugar and its derivatives will probably be left out of the free trade negotiations with the Group of Three (Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico), as per request from Mexico, as sugar is included in the NAFTA negotiations. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1736 GMT 26 Oct 93)

According to the DANE, the unemployment rate for the country's seven largest cities has dropped, from 9.1 percent in 1992 to 7.9 percent in 1993, the lowest in the last seven years for a third quarter. Unemployment in Bogota was 5.3 percent in September 1993, whereas in September 1992 it was 7.4 percent. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Oct 93, p 1-B)

The DANE has reported that Colombian exports during the first seven months of 1993 amounted to $4.11

billion, up 3 percent from the percentage reached in the same period in 1992. According to the DANE, this increase is due to the 14.1-percent increase in nontraditional exports and the 8.1 percent reduction in traditional exports, which amounted to $1.835 billion between January and July, whereas in 1992 it amounted to $1.997 billion. The reduction in traditional exports is mainly due to the reduction in coffee exports. (Paris AFP in Spanish 0225 GMT 29 Oct 93

Costa Rica

According to Central Bank President Jorge Guardia, imports increased at a slower pace following recent measures adopted by the Central Bank such as an increase in interest rates and devaluations. Imports increased 41 percent in the first quarter of 1993, 25 percent in the second quarter, and only 5 percent in the third. (San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 10 Oct 93 p 4a)

According to a private economic consulting firm, the Costa Rican trade deficit was the highest in the country's history in September 1993 with a total of $614.2 million, a 56-percent increase over last year. The government, however, believes the economy can finance the trade deficit with the inflow of capital and foreign exchange generated by tourism. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2314 GMT 20 Oct 93)

Jorge Guardia resigned as president of the Costa Rican Central Bank. He will be replaced by Jorge Corrales. (San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Oct 93 pp 1a, 6a)

Trade between Costa Rica and Chile has more than doubled in the last two years. Costa Rican exports went from $2 million in 1991 to $5 million in 1992. Official sources said exports to the South American country have already reached $7 million in the first nine months of 1993 alone. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0001 GMT 21 Oct 93)

The slow pace with which the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly has processed the disbursement of 12 credits has already caused the government to accumulate a 235.6-million colon debt with the various financial organizations. There is a commission the country must pay if the loans are not approved and disbursed within 30 days. This debt increases by 36.4 million colones every month. (San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 20 Oct 93, p 5A)

Official sources have reported that Costa Rica will bolster its exports to Norway through business contacts endorsed by the Norwegian Embassy in San Jose. During the first nine months of 1993, Costa Rica's exports to Norway amounted to $870,000, which is much less than the $1.4 million exported during the same period in 1992. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2122 GMT 28 Oct 93)

The Costa Rican Government expects this year's economic growth to amount to 7 percent, the same as last year. Presidency Minister Rolando Lacle said that inflation has been the lowest over the last few years, close to 10 percent. He said unemployment is under 4 percent. Opposition Deputy Alejandro Soto said, however, that poverty has grown and that the government is trying to conceal this fact. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0104 GMT 28 oct 93)

Cuba

The Central Oil Drilling and Pumping Enterprise [Empresa de Perforacion y Extraccion de Petroleo del Centro] in Matanzas Province has yielded more than 657,000 tons of the so-called black gold, which is higher than last year's total production. Matanzas has the largest number of oil deposits in the country. (Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Oct 93)

Ecuador

Finance Minister Cesar Robalino said during a news conference that the Ecuadoran economy will grow 3 percent in 1994, adding that "the growth rate for 1993 will be minimal." Robalino also said the government hopes to lower the inflation rate to 15 percent in 1994. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1646 GMT 21 Oct 93)

The World Bank has announced a $14 million-loan to help promote mining activities in Ecuador and reduce the risk of pollution in small-scale gold mining activities. The loan will be used in a project to attract private investment and promote the development of the mining sector in an ecologically rational manner. (Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Oct 93)

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes Delgado and Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma have signed an agreement to promote and protect mutual investments, at the conclusion of Silva's official visit to Ecuador. The agreement will serve to reinforce the flow of capital between the two countries. (Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Oct 93)

According to figures by the Statistics and Census Institute, the inflation rate so far this year has reached 28.1 percent, whereas the accumulated inflation rate for the past 12 months is 31.52 percent. (Paris AFP in Spanish 0121 GMT 30 Oct 93)

El Salvador

Consumer prices in El Salvador remained stable last September as the year's cumulative inflation rate stood at 9.6 percent, the same percentage reported for the previous period. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2130 GMT 22 Oct 93)

Central Reserve Bank officials have reported that the bank's net international reserves were $600 million by 30 September 1993. The figure is some $100 million higher than the amount registered in December 1992. (San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 25 Oct 93 p 4)

In a report submitted on 28 October on the country's economic performance this year, Central Reserves Bank

[BCR] President Roberto Orellana said that the economy has grown by 5 percent. He said that the industrial and export sectors have shown the greatest growth in 1993. (San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Oct 93)

Guatemala

The Inter-American Development Bank, IDB, plans to grant Guatemala a $400 million-loan for development and environmental projects for the 1993-1994 period, according to Carlos Binetti, the IDB representative in our country. The Financial Modernization Program should get a share of $130 million, of which the first $60 million will be disbursed in late November 1993. (Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Oct 93 p 62)

The Guatemalan quetzal was devalued on 21 October for the first time in two weeks. The quetzal is now purchased at $5.83 and sold at $5.88. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1739 GMT 21 Oct 93)

Guatemalan Bank [Banguat] President Willy Zapata has announced that the demand for foreign exchange dropped to $8.5 million, and the supply of foreign exchange is close to $11 million. (Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Oct 93 p 20)

Honduras

The government is conducting 34 projects with IDB financing for $713 million, which make the IDB's influence in Honduras "very strong," according to IDB representative Eduardo Casati. Casati said Honduras needs to diversify its productive activities, generate thermal electricity, decrease the Army's budget, and reduce the fiscal deficit. (San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Oct 93 p 2)

Asterio Reyes, president of the Honduran Association of Coffee Growers, said Honduran coffee exports will generate $250 million in foreign exchange in 1993. (Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2131 GMT 21 Oct 93)

The Honduran Finance and Public Credit Ministry has announced that the French Government has approved the sale of up to $10 million of Honduran debt certificates. The funds to be generated by this sale will be used to finance private investment projects in Honduras. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0018 GMT 29 Oct 93)

Mexico

According to a report issued by the Economic Conference for Latin America and the Data Processing and Statistics Institute, some 13.6 million Mexicans, 16.3 percent of the population, live in extreme poverty, which means they earn less than $50 per month. According to the report, 18 percent of the Mexican people earn less than $140 per month. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2044 GMT 24 Oct 93)

According to a Mexican Petroleum communique, Mexico produced 1,610,900 barrels of oil products per day during the first eight months of the year. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1430 GMT 25 Oct 93)

Fernando Sanchez Ugarte, industry undersecretary of the Commerce Secretariat, has said that the industrial sector will have grown by between 1.5 and 2 percent by the close of the year. (Mexico City XEQ Canal 9 Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 Oct 93)

According to the private analysis group Expansion, at least 200 Mexican enterprises have invested in tourism, telecommunications, and construction in Cuba. In 1992, Mexico sold $116 million worth of products to Cuba and bought $7.6 million, resulting in a commercial balance favorable to Mexico by more than $109 million. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 0034 GMT 31 Oct 93)

In its most recent quarterly report, the National Bank of Mexico said the efforts to lower inflation have resulted in lower liquidity of the financial system and a moderate growth rate of 1.3 percent during the first half of the year. The bank also said the salary raises for 1994 will be limited. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0113 GMT 31 Oct 93)

Nicaragua

The Nicaraguan Government has already accepted the recommendations made by the international financial institutions for a drastic payroll reduction. The resources will be used to create jobs in the productive sector, Deputy Guillermo Chavarria, vice president of the National Assembly's Economic Affairs Commission, told BARRICADA. For each employee dismissed, "at least two will be hired in the productive sector," Chavarria said. (Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Oct 93 pp 1, 12)

Despite the political and social instability in the country, Nicaragua received $100 million in foreign investment this year, which is 6 percent of the country's gross domestic product, according to Economy Ministry official Amilcar Ibarra. (Paris AFP in Spanish 2100 GMT 22 Oct 93)

Big businessmen and producers must turn to private banks for loans, Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Kruger said after a cabinet council meeting on 19 October. Kruger said they must stop applying for loans at state banks. (Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Oct 93)

Stock exchange Director Carolina Solorzano de Barrios has reported that six stock dealerships have been authorized and that the first 19 stock brokers have been trained. (Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 28 Oct 93 p 5)

Sinforiano Caceres, leader of the National Federation of Cooperatives, has reported that nearly 1,000 cooperatives have been dissolved in the past three years for lack

of loan money and technical assistance. Alvaro Fiallos, deputy agrarian reform minister, has reported that there has been a land ownership reshuffling as the result of these dissolutions. (Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Nov 93 pp 1, 9)

Panama

Panamanian Commerce Minister Roberto Alfaro and Costa Rican Agriculture Minister Juan Rafael Lizano agreed to maintain the bilateral free trade agreement and to lift restrictions on the trading of onions, milk, and bananas at the border. (Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 21 Oct 93 p 10)

Alvaro Aleman, revenue director of the Finance Ministry, said there has been a $23-million drop in revenues from 1 January to 30 September 1993. Aleman says the only positive sector is the Tax Revenue Department, which reported a 6-percent increase over budget, Aleman said. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Oct 93 p 4a)

The Inter-American Development Bank on 27 October announced the approval of an $8.35-million loan to support studies for the development of reverted areas of the Panama Canal's Interoceanic Region and the incorporation into the country's economic and social framework. (Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 28 Oct 93 p 21A)

According to a report released by the Comptroller General's Office, the country's public debt totaled $7.373 billion at the end of the third quarter in 1993. As of June, this debt amounted to $7.262 billion. (Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Oct 93 p 18A)

Peru

Sapet Development Corporation, the world's fifth largest oil corporation, has signed a $25-million contract with Petroperu for exploiting the Talara oil fields. (Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Oct 93)

Congress President Jaime Yoshiyama has reported that the Chinese consortium Shougang would like to invest $950 million in mining, agricultural industry, metalworking, and tourism to develop Peru's southern area. Leaders of the consortium said they plan to make this investment in the next two years and that they are glad they purchased in 1992 the bankrupt state-owned enterprise Peruvian Iron, located in Marcona, 400 km south from Lima. In eight months, the Chinese succeeded in making profits of $5 million—versus the $32 million the enterprise lost the previous year, double the production—and reduced unit production costs by approximately 53 percent. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1833 GMT 26 Oct 93)

Petroperu President Emilio Zuniga has reported that the country's proven reserves have dropped by over 400 million barrels in nearly two decades. The reserves dropped from 800 million barrels early in the 1970's to approximately 370 million. Production increased from 200,000 barrels daily early in the 1980's to an average of 130,000 barrels daily at present. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1822 GMT 27 Oct 93)

A Peruvian Government source has reported that according to an agreement with the Paris Club, Peru will amortize just one obligation to the organization in 1994 and that "most of the interest payments will be made beginning in 1995." (Madrid EFE in Spanish 1948 GMT 27 Oct 93)

According to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism, Peru's industrial activity grew to 12.7 percent in September, a significant improvement over last year's 9.5 percent. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1613 GMT 29 Oct 93)

The National Statistics and Data-Processing Institute has reported that inflation reached 1.51 percent in October; the year's accrued figure is 33.91 percent. This means that the government has attained the goal of lowering the annual inflation rate to less than 40 percent. (Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1316 GMT 1 Nov 93)

It has been reported that the consumer price index for October was 1.51 percent, the lowest for some time. (Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Nov 93)

Venezuela

According to Iberia Airlines officials, Venezuelan International Aviation, Incorporated, Viasa, will be profitable within two years. Iberia Airlines President Juan Saez met with President Ramon Jose Velasquez to talk about privatization of the Venezuelan airlines. (Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 19 Oct 93)

The Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Fedecamaras, asked the Venezuelan Central Bank to temporarily slow down devaluations of the bolivar. Fedecamaras believes it should be done at least until an equilibrium is reached following the implementation of the value-added tax. (Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Oct 93)

Customs Director Rene Luis Rincon has reported that 2.2-trillion bolivares worth of value-added tax has failed to be collected in September. (Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 26 Oct 93)

The Inter-American Development Bank will increase its loans portfolio for social programs by between 40 and 50 percent, President Enrique Iglesias has reported. (Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 26 Oct 93 p E-1)

The Venezuelan Central Bank has implemented progressive devaluations to stabilize the bolivar in relationship to the U.S. dollar. The bank says the measure intends to

prevent the U.S. dollar from skyrocketing in value. (Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 26 Oct 93 p 11)

Eduardo Cabezas, president of the Committee of Representatives of the Latin American Integration Association, has said that the integration processes in Latin America "must progress at the same pace as the changes in the international economy." (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2207 GMT 27 Oct 93)

The Customs Department has reported the collection of 1.6-trillion bolivares worth of value-added tax in three weeks. (Caracas Radio Caracas Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 Oct 93)

The National Council for the Promotion of Investment [CONAPRI] has said that Venezuela's economic recovery requires foreign investment of $10 billion. Telecommunications offers the brightest perspective, because it is expected to produce the equivalent of 6-percent gross national product in the year 2000. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2341 GMT 1 Nov 93)

A shareholders meeting in Caracas decided to merge CVG- Interalumina and CVG-Bauxiven and create a new corporation, CVG- Bauxilum. (Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 30 Oct 93 p 2-25)

It has been reported in Caracas that CONAPRI expects a total investment of $21 billion in 1994. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1511 GMT 2 Nov 93)

Cuba

Robaina Comments on UN Blockade Vote

FL0411011093 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina stated that the UN General Assembly's vote against the blockade of Cuba is the international community's support for the Cuban people's attitude of resistance in the face of U.S. aggression. Robaina, who is in Mexico, added that above all, the vote represents the backing of the international community in a gigantic wave of solidarity that can be observed toward Cuba's attitude of confronting the criminal blockade.

Robaina also pointed out that the success achieved today at the United Nations represents the way that the peoples and governments of the world recognize the dignity with which the Cuban people have resisted that aggressive U.S. policy. Robaina went on to say that the vote not only depended on their opinion of Cuba, but of the way that the governments dared to vote against the United States, and more than 50 countries did just that.

Alternate Envoy Interviewed

FL0311204193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Carlos Zamora, the Cuban alternate ambassador to the United Nations, at the UN Building in New York, by reporter Gisela Bel Heredia in Havana—live]

[Text] [Heredia] Zamora, we have just learned about approval of the UN resolution condemning the blockade imposed on Cuba. We would like you to comment on this.

[Zamora] Yes. Look, the UN General Assembly approved, two minutes ago, with 88 votes in favor and only 4 against, a resolution that condemns for the second consecutive year the blockade policy imposed by the United States against Cuba. I believe that the vote outcome clearly reflects, even more firmly than before, the international community's desire for an end to this policy of blockade by the United States against Cuba.

It should be noted that 30 additional countries voted in favor of the resolution this year. The overwhelming majority of Latin American and Caribbean countries, with the sole exception of Paraguay, voted in favor of the resolution. It should also be noted that the EC and many European countries this year voted in favor of the resolution. We should mention the explanation of the vote cast by Belgium, in the name of the EC, which was clearly and openly critical of the U.S. blockade policy against Cuba.

I believe the success we have achieved today must first be credited to our people. Through their firm resistance to the blockade, and through the moral strength stemming from their resistance during these years, our people have earned the endorsement, support, and solidarity of the international community.

[Heredia] Zamora, what can you tell us about the reaction from U.S. representatives? Obviously, the approval of the resolution entails a condemnation of the United States.

[Zamora] In a brief explanation, the U.S. representative attempted to justify the policy the United States has followed to-date. The explanation not only did not contain any new approach, let alone new substantive elements, but rather, continued to uphold a position which has been clearly and openly rejected by the international community.

[Heredia] Thus, it has been a gesture of solidarity with Cuba at such an important forum as the UN General Assembly.

[Zamora] In the first place, I believe it has been a clear confirmation by the international community of its opposition to violation of such sacred principles as noninterference and nonaggression and to the application of economic coercion in violation of the principles of free trade and navigation. Violation of these principles lies at the core of the U.S. blockade against Cuba. It has also been an act of recognition of the effort and firm position observed by our people during these years.

[Heredia] Thank you, Comrade Zamora.

Acting Foreign Minister's Views

PA0411014693 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Nov 93

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Acting Cuban Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez-Parodi said in Havana that the UN condemnation of the U.S. blockade against the island reflects the international community's rejection of this kind of policy and is a clear sign that the United States should not ignore.

Sanchez-Parodi held a news conference during which he emphasized the near unanimous and solid support of Latin America and the Caribbean for the resolution presented by Cuba and a substantial increase in favorable votes from Western Europe.

In this regard, he pointed out that contrary to what enemy campaigns claim, Cuba is not isolated. In fact, it has broad support from the international community. If anyone is isolated, it is the party practicing this policy of aggression and hostility against the Caribbean nation.

The acting foreign minister added that the result of the vote surpassed all expectations because it overcame enormous pressure by Washington to block support for the Cuban resolution.

Route 84 Defendants Sentenced, One to Death

FL0411021693 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] The court's sentence of the individuals implicated in the events of Route No. 84 in Havana City, where Leonaldo Enrique Marrero Diaz was murdered, was announced today. It was the court's decision to sentence (Felix Eduardo Biedo Ariega) to death; (Miguel Angel Bouza Moreno) to 30 years imprisonment; and Jesus Hernandez Rabelo, Armando Zaldu Dutil, and Jose Viciedo [word indistinct] to 25 years imprisonment. Jose Juan Pedroso Martinez, Joel Brucelas Berroa, Juan Carlos Mazorra Rodriguez, Arlenis Gonzalez Aunzola, Orlando Colon Fernandez, and Carlos Pedroso Brito were sentenced to 20 years imprisonment; Alexander Camejo Caseres, and Domingo Daniel Gonzalez Odelin were sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. William Moreno Rodriguez was sentenced to eight years and Yuneisis Larduet Almenaris to six years. The court also sentenced Aliades Gonzalez Aransola, Namibia Piedra Rubio, Loides Perez Wilson, Yunia Garcia Rodriguez, and Yohana Gonzalez Marquez to one year imprisonment. Yohani Piedra Rubio and Yoiqui Rey Jimenez Perez were each given a sentence of six months imprisonment.

Far Commission Observes U.S. Preparations at Guantanamo

FL0411025093 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] A high-ranking Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] commission is touring Guantanamo Province. Neighborhoods that border the perimeters of the Yankee naval base have defined objectives, from the military-economic point of view, because of their strategic location. The main purpose of the visit, conducted by Ulises Rosales del Toro, a member of the Politburo and chief of the General Staff of the FAR, is to evaluate the activities being carried out in these areas and to evaluate the combative spirit of the officers and soldiers of the border brigade.

[Begin Rosales recording] In addition to this, we are analyzing the reinforcements of the Yankee naval base, with its so-called facade of preparation for a possible intervention in Haiti. They are carrying out a series of combat simulations that we need to study to determine if they are being done for employment of forces in Haiti or whether they are training for future operations in this part of the Eastern territory. There have been strong reinforcements, mainly naval and marine forces. We are also considering this situation. [end recording]

Rosales met with residents in areas close to the Yankee naval base. He was briefed on the residents' level of information, an important aspect in this area that existed before the border limits.

[Begin Rosales recording] This area is destined to impede incursions into our country through this sector, using all means. It is also destined to prevent penetration of these minefields, which are very dangerous to anyone who tries to cross them. [end recording]

At the end of his tour, Division General Ulises Rosales de Toro described the combative spirit of the officers and soldiers of the border brigade as satisfactory, and described the Eastern Army's work in general as positive.

Robaina Arrives in Mexico City for Official Visit

FL0311190993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Report by Roberto Paneque in Mexico City]

[Text] It is now 1030 in Mexico City. Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and his entourage arrived here at 0830. Cuban Ambassador Fernandez de Cossio and other senior embassy officials were there to meet him.

Robaina is scheduled to keep a busy agenda of meetings with Mexican Foreign Secretariat officials here, including Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana and Foreign Under Secretary (Rosario Green), who welcomed him at the airport.

It is also expected that Robaina will be received by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari on 4 or 5 November.

One of the purposes of Robaina's visit to Mexico is to meet with members of the Cuban community in Mexico, some of whom have been here as long as 40 to 50 years. He will meet with those Cubans who reside here, who respect their fatherland, and who want to keep in touch with their fatherland.

Robaina also gave an impromptu news conference at the VIP room of the Benito Juarez International Airport. He commented on the vote that is probably being taken right now at the United Nations regarding a Cuban proposal. He said Mexico has always supported the Cuban cause on the basis of mutual respect.

I will now feed you a few seconds of Robaina's remarks to reporters at the airport:

[Begin recording] I believe this visit has a special significance for both Mexico and for us, for our government, for our Foreign Ministry, and for me personally. The most important thing is that the visit is already under way. I was told that there was a group of reporters.... [end recording]

Further on Visit, Comments on UN Vote

PA0411022093 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Report by Nelson Notario Castro from Mexico City]

[Text] Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari reportedly met with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto

Robaina late Wednesday afternoon. A few hours earlier Robaina, who is also member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee Politburo, held two meetings with Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Fernando Solana. The two meetings between Solana and Robaina were held in a warm, friendly atmosphere of mutual understanding.

Roberto Robaina initiated early Wednesday morning a four-day official visit to Mexico, which will conclude in Quintana Roo State on Saturday night. The Cuban foreign minister's delegation also includes Dr. Jose Fernandez de Cossio, the Cuban ambassador to Mexico and dean of the diplomatic corps here.

The Cuban foreign minister was met at Benito Juarez Airport by Deputy Foreign Relations Secretary Rosario Green and by the Council Directorate [Consejo de Direccion] of the Cuban Embassy in Mexico. The delegation later placed a wreath at the [words indistinct] to honor the memory of Mexican hero Benito Juarez.

Later, Roberto Robaina granted an exclusive interview to Mexican the Mexican newspaper LA JORNADA and then answered questions from [name indistinct], the editor of the influential Mexican magazine SIEMPRE.

At the offices of the Mexican Editorial Organization, Roberto Robaina met with Mario Vasquez Rana, president of the organization and of the Mexican Olympic Committee. A news conference has been scheduled for tonight as well as an important meeting with Cubans living in Mexico. The Cuban foreign minister also held a meeting with Nobel prize winner for literature Gabriel Garcia Marquez at his hotel this afternoon.

Robaina has a tight schedule but [words indistinct] agrees it has been productive. There was a moment of great joy on Wednesday when Roberto Robaina was told about the vote at the United Nations. Regarding this topic, he said the following to Radio Havana Cuba. Let us listen:

[Begin Robaina recording] Just as we had thought [words indistinct] to a brutal and cruel policy such as this. [Words indistinct] There were 88 votes in favor and I believe it shows that governments [words indistinct] are opposed to the blockade against Cuba. The international community has shown its support for Cuba. [Words indistinct] [end recording]

Castro Addresses Microbiology Congress

PA0411043193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network Spanish 2320 GMT 30 Oct 93

[Speech by Fidel Castro at the Fourth Microbiology and Parasitology Congress held at the Convention Palace in Havana on 29 October—recorded]

[Text] A program had been previously scheduled in which [words indistinct] were to give a speech. I knew that [words indistinct] was to speak and that [words indistinct] had many things to say. He had many things to say but in a few words. It had been announced that Dr. Carlyle—I call him Carlyle, because that is how we pronounce it in Spanish [Castro chuckles]—was going to give a conference. How long was the conference to last? Well, approximately 40 minutes. When we arrived here, we learned that Carlyle had [word indistinct] (?sore throat). Before it was called [words indistinct] but now it is called [words indistinct] because nothing can be heard [Castro chuckles] [words indistinct].

It appears that in honor of the inauguration of this Institution, he was received here at least with a cold. It has not been investigated yet if he has a virus or a bacteria. The fact of the matter is that he could barely speak. I do not know how he managed, because he gave his speech and he spoke very well and with a great deal of sensibility which merits double congratulations. At the end he said that [name indistinct] was to give a speech. I was told that the last time [name indistinct] had given a speech was at a graduation ceremony, and they said it was long. This time he was brief and he spoke eloquently, there was even time left. We have not been here for an hour yet. It was then my turn to [word indistinct] come up to the podium.

A sort of conditional reflex has been created. This has nothing to do with parasitology or with microbiology, nor with tropical medicine. It has to do with studies recently carried out by a Russian scientist—Russian, Soviet, I do not know what he is now. I am not well informed of his nationality nor where he was born. I do not know if he was born in Belarus, in the Ukraine, or in [word indistinct]; before he was a Soviet citizen. Now he is Russian, is that right? I think he studied the aspect of conditional reflexes. Well, the truth is that I am the one that has the reflexes here, it is not the public. Rather, one can say that I provoke reflexes. When they see me [words indistinct] as if it is mandatory, they demand that I be present. [Words indistinct] what happened to Carlyle. Carlyle had no voice but he had a speech prepared. I can speak but I have no speech prepared. [Castro shuffles papers]

I came here to greet you all, in the first place, and to express my satisfaction for your presence. There is a large attendance of doctors, Cuban experts. There is also a very large attendance—number not yet estimated—of experts from abroad. I say from abroad so as to not call them foreign because in the end we all belong to the same family. There is nothing strange or foreign among those who are visiting us here. [applause]

I have not had the opportunity to participate in the debates, the workshops, the seminars—who knows how many things have been going on. I had even mentioned that the closing ceremony was to be held over there [at the Institute]. I mentioned to my dear comrades that it would probably will be held over there as this deals with tropical medicine. But when we were on the way they turned and I asked: Where are you going? They replied,

the closing ceremony is at the Convention Palace. Nevertheless, I did hear that the Congress went very well. That everyone—the Cubans as well as the foreigners—had a good concept of the Congress' development. Carlyle talked about the conditions under which this Congress was held, the conditions under which we organized this institution, [words indistinct] very difficult conditions.

It is truly encouraging [words indistinct] for us to hold a congress of this quality under these circumstances.

Our Tropical Medicine Institute has already received certain international recognition. I say certain international recognition because I do not wish to wound the modesty of the workers at the institute. Perhaps it is more than certain international recognition; perhaps it is great international recognition. At least our area, the area of Latin America, has given the institute this recognition.

We must say that the founder of the institute, the man who conceived this necessary and important idea for our country was Pedro Curie, Gustavo's father. The fact that Gustavo is the one who currently heads the institute is quite symbolic; and he is doing a splendid job. A few minutes ago he told me that present here today is a Guatemalan professor he met when he was a child and that he had worked with his father. It was Curie who had the idea and who put the idea into practice. He did this with no funding whatsoever. He did it virtually on his won. He created the institute and got much of the material that was needed. He succeeded in giving the institute prestige and having tropical medicine taught at the university.

You have presented us with a diploma in recognition of our work and support for this task. All I did was get information about the institute and the work that Pedro Curie and a group of scientists had done. I became aware of the importance of tropical medicine in a country such as ours, not only because we are a tropical country, with all the virtues and shortcomings of a tropical country—because heat can create problems, can it not (Nerey) [not further identified]. Heat can be a problem especially for the construction workers because they, as well as the farmers, must work in very harsh weather. This is why I say that the European farmer works in air conditioned weather. Here we must work in 35 and sometimes 40 degree weather and relative humidity of more than 80 percent.

Slavery originated in the tropics. The Europeans could not work in our climate and that is why they enslaved the Indians. In many places they exterminated the Indians. Then they went to Africa. They brought millions of Africans here to grow sugar cane, coffee, and other agricultural products. In other words, these people work in a harsh climate and this harsh climate has diseases that do not exist in mild and cold climates.

Difficulties for development in tropical climate countries abound and not only in the field of health; however, there are many tropical diseases. If you want to be healthy in the tropics, then you must work hard in every field of health, in particular the field of tropical medicine. The huge number of diseases, parasites, [word indistinct], and other similar problems that do not exist in mild and cold climates.

Even back in those days Cuba's international cooperation was being developed. Our island was blocked and isolated. Not only because of feelings, but also out of need, we were forced to develop strong relations with the rest of the world. We cooperated with African countries and other tropical countries. Students came and went. There came a time when we had 25,000 students on scholarship. Almost all the tropical countries were represented.

It was a matter of concern the fact that diseases that did not exist here could be transmitted from other continents. The Institute of Tropical Medicine—that we could say was revived—was located temporarily in a number of houses, until adequate installations were prepared. The Institute was requested to carry out an extensive project in order to protect the nation from illnesses from other continents or other nations. That project was very important.

The project consisted of finding out what these diseases were, what produced them, in addition to how they were transmitted, how they were transmitted [repeats himself]. Almost all these diseases, all of them have some form of transmission. At times it is the mosquito, at times it is the fly, at times it is a snail, or an [word indistinct] insect. We had to investigate whether the transmitting agents of those diseases were in our countries. We also had to investigate how these diseases were to be combated. That is, to protect the nation's public health there must be an exchange. This type of exchange of information takes place in all parts of the world. Ever since aviation was developed, in a matter of hours any traveler can travel to any country from any [word indistinct]. Communication has been multiplied among the diverse areas in the world. Therefore, we saw this as a necessity given our extremely broad relations with the rest of the world. It is also a need for the [words indistinct] of the world to [words indistinct].

The study of diseases unique to each climate is very important and highly interesting for all the nations. There are some diseases that are not exclusive to the tropics; they are of tropical, cold, and mild climates. AIDS was mentioned here, it affects all the nations of the world. It is still not know for certain, nor precisely, what the origins of AIDS is. There are diverse theories with regard to this, but its origin is still unknown. I have even had the opportunity to learn of some opinions linking it to biological warfare efforts. This cannot be asserted either. It is just one of the many theories that abound. However, it is well known that biological warfare was the object of in-depth research and that billions [currency not specified] were spent on it. It would not be surprising for an epidemic such as this to have originated from one

of the many laboratories. As a result of this, it was our responsibility to develop health research methodology not and just concentrate on tropical disease research. We have learned a lot from some rare diseases that have on occasions plagued plants, animals and even.... [pauses] I believe it was [name indistinct] who said here that the strange manner in which the hemorrhagic dengue epidemic appeared in Cuba is still to be determined. You can bet that so far that disease has not appeared abruptly in any other place. Yet it appears abruptly, violently.... [pauses] It is true that it was in part due to our own irresponsible conduct because there had been an epidemiological carelessness that resulted in an increment of the transmitting agent; the well-known mosquito discovered by Finlay as the yellow fever transmitting agent.

It is here where our carelessness lies. We allowed the Aedes Agypti mosquito to develop even though we were not yet immersed in the special period and we were in a better economic position. We have been able to reduce it to minimum levels and we have to continue to keep it within tolerable levels or in areas where we were practically able to eradicate that mosquito.

[Words indistinct] we were quite besieged and threatened, not only as result of the mere casual intervention of diseases but also because of the premeditated introduction of diseases. All of this prompted us into taking serious steps in the health sector as well as health research and we began to carry out all sorts of research of every type so long as it proved useful to our country, to our development. We decided to pay special attention to the health sector. As a result of this decision, we decided to provide and equip the Tropical Medicine Institute with adequate installations and all the laboratories were [word indistinct].

That is what we practically have today. I said practically have today because we are still missing a few items. In addition, the construction crew, and it is appropriate for me to mention it, still has some details to look after and those small details are usually the ones that take the most time. The P-3 laboratory is still unfinished. Construction has started but it is still unfinished and the institution will not be complete without the P-3 laboratory. I was told that there are still some small details in the hospital part of the project. You are aware of what is missing, are you not? [laughter in background] Good!

What have I done during this time period? First of all, I endured the constant delays in the construction. When this project was launched the construction sector had not yet implemented the use of contingents, nor was construction being done efficiently, and there were numerous delays in completing the buildings. Most naturally I took upon myself the task of trying to provide some momentum. Afterward contingents were created, however construction progress was still slow. Now that we are talking about our glories, it is appropriate for us also to mention our faults. That institute was built too slowly. There is still no completion date. I seem to recall that three years ago they had set 26 July as the completion date. That was more or less three or four years ago. I said to myself that no way was this project going to be completed by 26 July. Impossible! There is still too much to be done. To be quite honest, I visited the construction site on numerous occasions while they were still building. How many times? If you recall, I visited the site approximately 20 or 25 times to.... [pauses] I might fall short because I do not want to exaggerate. What's that? [voice heard in the background] I am being told that I visited the site 42 times. They were keeping count. I did it in order to encourage them, commit then, criticizing them, and so forth, in order for them to forge ahead. Until at last, they have nearly completed it. [laughs] It is not the same thing to say that they practically did not conclude it, as to say they nearly concluded it. [laughs] A couple of details still missing but that's all. We can practically inaugurate the building. Objectively speaking I can really say that there are small details still missing. I hope they don't forget now to finish the details.

Ever since the institute started operating some time ago without having been finished I also visited it on several occasions. I visited the place on several occasions during the period when the optic neuritis epidemic was taking place just to see what they were doing and the research they were conducting. If this diploma is being awarded for the times I visited, suffered, and struggled for that place, then I gladly accept it. [laughs] At any rate, my merits are quite modest in comparison to all those people who were patient enough to work there for practically six years. I say six years just to be conservative. I was practically an advocate looking for state resources to invest there because installations such as those are costly [words indistinct].

Not only is the civil construction costly, but also the materials, the laboratory and other equipment to be used in the hospital, electrical generator in case of an electricity failure, and climate control system. All that is costly and the country has invested heavily in that institution. Those who come to take courses at the hospital are accommodated at a small hotel located right next to it. The hotel is now being managed by the tourism companies but they also provide services and use the excess labor in other things and this ease things when having to organize events and the progress of the courses offered at the institution.

As a result of [words indistinct] efforts with respect to the center, you have been quite generous in awarding me this diploma. I dedicate it to the memory of Pedro Curie who was the founder and driving force behind that institution. [applause] I also dedicate it to the center's workers and Gustavo who worked unflinchingly to establish this new center.

I believe it is already a respectable institution and one that can be very useful to the country, the region, and other regions in the world. As you see, the institution is located in an area that is somewhat removed from the city or from the center of the city. This causes problems

in the current situation, with the scarcity of fuel and transportation, and we are looking for ways to resolve them. We are also modifying, rebuilding, and preparing housing installations and have already distributed a few units so that the institution's personnel can be close at hand. I hope to have not less than 100 housing units.

As you know, we had many foreign technicians here and they lived near the institution; there was a neighborhood for foreign technicians. It is very painful that the foreign technicians have left but, well, we have received considerable training and can already fend for ourselves in many things. In tropical medicine, we received little or almost no help from the foreign technicians. We can really say that our health and biology investigations were carried out mainly—almost 100 percent—by Cubans. The foreign technicians worked in other areas; they helped us in other areas.

It hurt us very much to see the foreign technicians leave. Their departure, however, released a large number of housing units that will now be used to house the Pedro Curie Institute scientists. We are adapting and preparing the housing units so that the center's staff can live closer. With the scarcity of buses, it would be difficult for them to come to work, approximately 15 km from the center of the city, on a bicycle every day. We are now engaged in preparing those housing units for the center's personnel and will continue to work to find solutions to those problems so the institute can be complete. Based on the experience we have picked up in other institutions, we know the advantage of having housing units close at hand. It eases the scientists' work very much.

There are still other things to be done but we will keep on working. I am going to keep on trying to earn the diploma that you have given me. The proof of the good intentions of my work is that I have been working with more or less the same vitality that I placed in other scientific institutions, and I will continue to do so. Some institutions have already been inaugurated but others are about to be inaugurated. Simply said, we have given priority to the areas of scientific investigation even amid the special period situation.

We are completing all the institutions in those areas and the ones related to the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries with great efforts and sacrifices. We are carrying out many actions in those areas in western Havana. We have the Western Havana Scientific Center, which includes a large number of institutions, that was established to further cooperation among them.

The latest joint effort made by the center and its institutions was when the optic neuritis epidemic developed. The scientists worked desperately in everything related to this epidemic. They studied the results of investigations that could give them insight in their search for the causes of the ailment. They studied its characteristics, searched for therapies, and looked for ways to implement programs. What are those programs called? The ones in which we worked so hard? The programs on therapeutic problems? What name was given to those programs? [Unidentified person mumbles something] Clinical tests, you say? Amid the epidemic, we investigated with approximately [words indistinct] to combat the ailment. [Words indistinct] medicines and treatment that could be more effective. We studied the effects of applying ozone or magneto-therapy [magnetoterapia] to the ailing. We studied vitamins to find out which would be more effective. We checked to see what effects would be caused with the use of Interferon, the transference factor [factor de transferencia], and even the (Ictaglobin). All the patients received the basic treatment; the one with vitamins. In addition, however, many patients received other treatments to be able to determine which was the most efficient.

As a result of this epidemic there must be tremendous efforts and constant follow-up. There must be a follow-up to the 50,000 cases that were diagnosed. However, it should be taken into account that in these cases there is a tendency for excessive diagnosis [hyperdiagnosticos]. According to the most conservative estimates, no less than 35,000 people were affected by the disease. A huge majority recovered completely. A small group, a few hundred suffered relapses. Their health improved, but their recovery was not complete. All diagnosed cases are being followed up.

Those cases that were recorded more than a year ago when we did not have much experience are receiving treatment. We even resorted to the sulfurous water because there were three theories related to the use of this treatment. I imagine that by now they might have discussed the issue in some congress on whether or not it was nutritive, toxic nutritive, toxic, or viral. There were numerous contradictions that prevented us from clearly establishing what the real causes were. A foreign scientist said that to search for a toxin that causes an illness is like searching for a needle in a haystack. A tremendous amount of work was done and every scientist became involved. We are not sure of how many hours went into this. My estimate, based on my participation in meetings with scientists during the epidemic, indicates that we must have surpassed 100 hours. One hundred hours of continuous meetings since there were two weekly meetings. In addition, there were also meetings among ourselves as well as with foreign scientists because we opened the doors to the international scientific community in the belief that this type of epidemic might be of interest to other countries, not just to us. There was strenuous work searching [word indistinct].

The struggle against the illness served to demonstrate two things: the scientific progress we had been able to accomplish, and at the same time, our scientific shortcomings. In which field were we more advanced? In which field were we less advanced? This effort prompted us to become aware of all these issues and to encourage the country's scientific development. Likewise, the Pan-American Health Organization and WHO both cooperated with us in encouraging the country's scientific development. We also established contacts with foreign

scientists and scientific centers in order to procure their assistance. But as for the disease we have now, the international scientific community does not have an answer either. It does not have a clear and categorical answer. We must continue researching and studying.

However, in circumstances such as these where a number of cases are recorded, there were days when more or less accurate diagnoses were made on approximately 700 cases. It was really a nightmare. The hospitals were overcrowded, yet research never stopped. I know of researchers who would sleep in their labs. They had a cot right beside their electronic microscopes and the culture mediums they were working with. They would sleep right in the lab while working on the epidemic related research. [Words indistinct] it is impossible to become fully aware of the value of these scientific institutions. This is the reason we have given them such a priority status.

If a similar problem were to break out in any other country, our research assistants would immediately offer their assistance to that country. For example, when the dengue break out in Ecuador they requested our cooperation and that of other countries and we immediately sent it. We acquired tremendous experience in the struggle against dengue because it was completely banished. The last cases of dengue were hospitalized. Not only did we struggle against the mosquito but special measures were taken to prevent any spread until the day when no cases were recorded. The overall measures finally succeeded. The overall measures also succeeded in eradicating the optic neuritis epidemic.

But that was a battle, and dengue was a big one back in 1981. That battle was much greater, and I would say more distressing. When the dengue hit, we knew certain elements regarding transmission and the virus. We were even able to use interferon, which at that time we had just produced, (?to fight) dengue. This was not the case now, since we had to investigate along the way. We had to adopt diverse measures along the way. It was truly distressing. I call that epidemic a nightmare.

It was at that time that we could appreciate the enormous importance of the work by scientists, and it is related to something as sacred as human health and human life. In this case, it was particularly sensitive because one of its manifestations affected eyesight. It is truly dramatic to see thousands of people with an eye ailment that could have consequences if they do not receive adequate treatment. This is the motivation of the science workers, and that is the reason for the devotion with which they work. I say that the behavior of scientists is truly exemplary now, as we often cannot even ensure monthly rations of gasoline to those who have cars.

There are many scientists in our country using bicycles to move about. I would, of course, rather that they could give [words indistinct] we are doing everything possible so that the material conditions of researchers are good, but our resources are limited. It is truly admirable to see a scientist on a bicycle. Perhaps the only positive result that may come from it is the exercise. It used to be that when many people got home they would do deep knee bends and other sorts of exercises, and now they do not need any kind of exercise as they do 10 km on the bicycle going to and from work. We must have.... [pauses] How many Cubans did you [not further identified] say were here? About 600. Raise your hands those who use a bicycle one way or another. See how many science and medicine workers do it.

I do not know what will happen in the future. Perhaps in the future when they have gasoline, vehicles, everything, they will continue to use the bicycle. A country such as the Netherlands has 14 million bicycles. They say everybody, including diplomats, use a bicycle in the Netherlands. We do it now as a necessity. I hope that in the future we will do it as a sport. People.... [pauses] That is a super-developed country. It has a per capita income of $20,000. And yet they use the bicycle. That habit did not exist here. I would really like to tell you that in our country many people used the bus to go two blocks. In sum, under these difficult conditions our scientists are setting a true example. That is why we have such a high concept of science workers. That is why they have acquired great prestige in our country. We are, therefore, very happy that this congress was successful in the opinion of all participants.

We are very happy to be able to inaugurate officially at last this institution or this installation, since the institution existed and had been functioning. I would like to tell you we will always be ready to cooperate with our Latin American brothers and countries of the world. I ask you not to view the institution we are inaugurating today as just a Cuban institution, but as an institution of mankind. Thank you. [applause]

Castro Addresses Athletes Departing for Games

FL0411031593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro at the banner-awarding ceremony for the Cuban athletic delegation that will participate in the 17th Central American and Caribbean Games, Havana, date not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear athletes of the Cuban delegation: Even though it was not part of the program, I did not want to leave without speaking to you briefly. The last time we met was before the Olympics. Before that we met for the Pan-American Games, and now we are meeting here on the occasion of the 17th Central American and Caribbean Games.

I hope you do not underestimate the importance of these competitions. We are not going there to humiliate anyone. We are going to compete fairly and chivalrously with athletes from our brother nations of the Caribbean and Central America. We are going there to express the quality of our sports and the great advance it has

experienced in our country. We are going to participate with honor, dignity, and pride. We are going to demonstrate what can be done, when it wants to be done, and when sports are given all the attention, support, and stimulus they require.

Our delegation already performed an extraordinary, heroic deed during the Pan-American Games. We ourselves imagined that we would be Pan-American champions and that we were going to obtain more medals than the United States—more gold medals. The heroic deed during the Olympic Games was also great, a heroic deed that filled our country with pride. Obviously, we will present ourselves in these games as the strongest and most well-prepared delegation.

Predictions on the number of medals have been made. I know that those who make the predictions always try to be modest in order to obtain more medals than expected. But, we are not worried... [changes thought] I personally do not care so much about the medals. I know they will be many. We might even have to send an extra airplane to bring home the medals that you will win there. What we care about is that you are the most educated delegation; that you be the most disciplined delegation; the friendliest delegation; the most fraternal delegation; and the kindest delegation. What we care about is that you compete with honor, patriotism, and with all your energy.

Medals are worth much, but the medal of the fatherland's prestige is worth even more. The battle for dignity is worth more; the battle for honor is worth more; and the battle of loyalty to the fatherland is worth more. These are the first medals that we want you to win. For the rest, we know that in the sports area you will write another page of glory and honor in Revolutionary Cuba's sports. Socialism or death; fatherland or death; we will win!

Thailand's Prasong, Rodriguez Vow To Strengthen Ties

FL0311153493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Thailand and Cuba today announced their decision to strengthen their bilateral ties after a meeting, held in Thailand, of Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Mario Rodriguez.

Martinez Signs Sports Cooperation Accord With Vietnam

FL0311134193 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Conrado Martinez, president of the National Institute for Sports, and (Le Huu), director general of sports in Vietnam with title of minister, signed the first sports cooperation agreement between Cuba and Vietnam. The cooperation for 1994 foresees the exchange of sports delegations, where Cuba invites Vietnamese teams to participate in events to be held in Cuba. Furthermore, the Cuban side will send a track and field trainer, a specialist in speed, sprint, and medium-distance races, and a volleyball trainer to provide methodological assistance to Vietnamese trainers.

During the signing of the agreement, (Le Huu) pointed out that, with the aid of Cuba, sports in his country will develop rapidly.

Cabrisas Meets With Ghana's Trade and Industry Minister

FL0311133993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas has met with Emma Mitchell, Ghana's minister of trade and industry, who is in Cuba to attend the 11th Havana International Fair and the signing of bilateral protocols for 1994 and 1995.

Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 1 Nov to 3 Nov

FL0311170393

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 1 and 3 November.

Radio Reloj at 1500 GM on 1 November reports that 103 Basic Cooperative Production Units (UBPC's) have been formed in Sancti Spiritus, completing the process in that province with the creation of the Altamira UBPC, the 29th in the Uruguay Agroindustrial Complex.

Radio Reloj at 2049 GMT on 1 November reports that 235 UBPC's for cane have been formed in Villa Clara Province. Villa Clara has the most UBPC's, which involve approximately 18,000 agricultural workers and an area of over 10,000 caballerias devoted to growing sugarcane. There are still 224 caballerias of land on which UBPC's are to be formed.

Radio Reloj at 2053 GMT on 1 November reports that the 1993-94 tobacco-planting campaign has begun in Villa Clara Province. The Agriculture Ministry's provincial deputy delegate reports that even though the sector is still behind, planting can move forward in the next few days because 50 caballerias are ready. There are at present 75,000 seedlings, enough for the November planting. The campaign's biggest problem is that over 200 caballerias have not yet been plowed. However, 75 percent of the 350 caballerias being worked on have been prepared, using oxen.

Radio Reloj at 2057 GMT on 1 November reports that the bridge between Cayo Coco and Cayo Guillermo, along the northern coast of Ciego de Avila Province, is open to traffic. The bridge is 320 meters long, paved, and can support heavy weights. Siderails have yet to be

installed. This bridge is the second-longest in the small islands surrounding Cuba and facilitates tourist access and transport of materials and men for work in the islands.

Cuba Vision Network at 2320 GMT on 1 November reports that a regional workshop on the production and marketing of antibiotics began at the Convention Center today. Cuba invests over $100 million a year in buying raw materials for the pharmaceuticals industry. Of this amount, approximately $32 million is needed to satisfy Cuba's antibiotics needs. "All antibiotics are imported; hence the importance of this regional workshop on the production and marketing of antibiotics." The workshop is sponsored by international organizations and Cuba's Ministry of Public Health, and 63 specialists from 28 institutions in 14 countries are participating. One of the main objectives is to discuss a regional antibiotics project that will contribute to the maufacture of such medications in Latin America and the Caribbean. Cuba is expected to one day produce well-made joint productions and obtain a stock bank capable of supplying the region.

Cuba Vision also reports that Cuban specialists and technicians have designed and built the first (Cryoeva), a piece of equipment for cyrosurgery and cyrotherapy. This equipment has been tested with good results. It permits the widespread use of a technique that uses liquid nitrogen at temperatures of -196 degrees (scale not specified) to destroy diseased cells and tissues.

Radio Rebelde at 0000 GMT on 2 November reports that the Ignacio Agramonte Airport of Camaguey has reopened for international flights after more than one year of runway repairs costing an estimated 5 million pesos. A German Condor airline 767 Boeing jetliner made the inaugural flight, bringing German tourists from Cologne directly to Camaguey. The report adds that there will be five incoming flights weekly by large aircraft from Canada and Europe, namely the German Condor, Canadian Royal, and Italian Lauda lines.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks at 0100 GMT on 2 November report that the third and last UBPC has been created at the Guira de Melena mixed crop enterprise in Havana Province. The third UBPC—Heroes of Yaguajay—consists, among others, of workers of the Armando Mestre contingent of the Construction Ministry.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision also report that the Agostinho Neto General Hospital in Guantanamo received donations totaling more than $12,000 to fight the consequences of the neuropathy epidemic. The donations consisted of food and cleaning supplies contributed by the governments of Canada, Netherlands, and Germany, and by Red Cross organizations from 10 countries. The shipment includes medicines donated by Spain.

Radio Rebelde at 1255 GMT on 3 November carries an interview with Reinaldo Rams Naranjo, manager of the El Nino food processing factory in the Cerro neighborhood, Havana City Province. This is the largest of the three factories in Havana producing a type of ground meat known as masa carnica. The other two factories are in Boyero and Guanabacoa. Rams reports that the factory produces 300 tons of ground meat monthly; it consists of chicken, soybean, and spices.

Tank Training Combined With Farm Work

94CA0015B Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 3 Oct 93 p 7

[Article by Osmin Martines Garcia]

[Text] The cannon roars and a tongue of fire leaps from its mouth, shredding the air. Hundreds of meters away the target blows up in a cloud of dust. The cloud may take the shape of a cone, a spire, or a ball, but it is always deadly. Specialists classify the blast by its use as "destructive," "ordinary," or "cumulative."

Inside the tank, on the right-hand side, the loader has a space of his own where he looks after the ammunition. He enjoys close to privileged status as if he were the oldest or most daring brother in a set of quadruplets.

To his left, the chest of the commander of the T-62M almost touches the gunner's neck. Beneath them sits the driver-mechanic with the weight of 40 tons of iron and steel machinery on his shoulders.

The way crewmembers sit inside a tank somewhat resembles the fetal position.

Despite the cooling system, the machinery sweats grease. Its smell mixes with the odor of gunpowder although the vaulted interior walls stay white thanks to regular painting and maintenance. With the vents closed and the sun beating down on the metal exterior, temperatures can reach 42 degrees Celsius.

From treads biting the stones beneath them with a metallic crunch to the 12.7-millimeter machinegun that is especially good at downing helicopters, the tank has the feel of a cold nest. It seems impenetrable, incapable of providing comfortable shelter for the men inside. Although those of us who whiled away our childhood with a novel about the adventures of four tankers and a dog may think otherwise.

The Most Formidable Weapon

"A large percentage of fear is ignorance. That is why daily training and an exact knowledge of combat techniques has a lot to do with skill and courage in modern warfare," says Major Neil Sarmientos. The major is an experienced first gunnery officer with a large tank unit in the western region. Our conversation takes place in a tank turret.

What Sarmientos describes is the principle that guides the training of future driver-mechanics, gunners, supply officers, loaders, and ground troops.

"It used to be that you gave tankers a route, and they followed it," he explains. "They completed the maneuver and came back. Now, with the adaptation of our forces to modern warfare and the prospect of confronting the enemy on Cuban soil, the emphasis is on the soldier. The initiative of the individual combatant is our most formidable weapon."

Such terms as strike, ambush, and counterstrike define the joint exercises of units on offense and defense. They train with "simulators and oscillating screens" portraying the obstacles combatants face in battle.

Major Sarmientos thinks the SMG [General Military Service] is getting better and better at training young people. This makes it easier for the officers—"Most of whom have two or more international missions under their belts and are graduates of the nation's military academies"—to do their jobs.

Even so, youth and intelligence are not enough. Tankers must be physically strong and short enough to keep from bumping into things in cramped quarters.

Like a Mother's Womb

"I feel safer in here than anywhere else. It is incredible, but you learn to love these buckets of bolts because they shield you from rain and bullets. In a way, they become extensions of your arms, your legs, your eyes....

"It is hard to find a tanker who does not have three great buddies ready to share the good times and the bad. It happens to me after a 20-year love affair with armor and to the rawest recruits. They are the ones who feel it most because they train together every day with live ammunition.

[Note: The above remarks sound like and, presumably are, Sarmiento's, but the story shifts from him to Velazquez without closing quotes.]

Lt. Col. Eliecer Velazquez, the unit commander, talks about the "differentiated training" the troops receive. This is the formula that combines a demanding military regimen and farm labor with no detriment to either activity. The "plan of study" is the path to learning about calibers, sights, and angles of fire; tilling the soil ennobles the soul.

"As time goes on, the tank becomes your home," Major Sarmientos affirms. "It keeps you out of the cold when you are in the field early in the morning. It is like a mother whose womb protects her children. It will not betray you, and it will not abandon you."

* Writers, Artists Address Employment Concerns

94CA0015A Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 4 Oct 93 p 11

[Report on 2 October meeting of the National Union of Cultural Workers]

[Text]The Fourth Congress of the Union of Cultural Workers in the city of Havana took place in the capital in an atmosphere marked by patriotism and defense of the nation's cultural identity. The gathering included calls for unity among workers in this sector and for strengthening collective efforts among agencies and labor groups from the local to the national level.

The meeting took place in the theater of the Major Camilo Cienfuegos School of Artillery of the FAR [Rebel Armed Forces]. It wound up the series of provincial sessions that began 7 September at the Isle of Youth special municipality. The Congress will end on 20 October at the CTC [Cuban Workers Federation] with presentation of the union's National Committee elected by 2,500 delegates from throughout the country. The event is slated to be the centerpiece of activities in observance of Cuban Cultural Day.

These working sessions of the SNTC [National Trade Union of Cultural Workers] Congress provided a forum for nationwide discussion of issues vital to cultural development. They also afforded an opportunity for broad, democratic debate about the functions of this labor group. The deliberations lasted more than 100 hours with participants and about 1,500 invited guests listening to a total of some 650 presentations.

Agustin Delgado, president of the Organizing Commission of the Fourth SNTC Congress, chaired the meeting. Those present included: Pedro Ross, general secretary of the CTC [Cuban Workers Federation]; Jorge Lezcano, first [Cuban Communist] Party secretary for the city of Havana; and Abel Prieto, president of UNEAC [National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists], all of whom are members of the Party Politburo. Also attending were Central Committee members Armando Hart, who is minister of culture, and Francisco Linares, the minister for, and head of, CETSS [State Committee for Labor and Social Security]. Others on hand for the occasion were heads of groups and institutions with an interest in cultural affairs, Party and National People's Assembly leaders, and members of the CTC and SNTC national leadership.

As in events past, the provincial assembly for the city of Havana showcased the fighting spirit of cultural workers. They displayed their readiness to dedicate their output—itself a product of the conquests of Socialism—to strengthening the ideological commitment of our people. They vowed to strive for aesthetic enrichment while also contributing their creative potential to overcoming the country's present difficulties in the economic sphere.

The Debate

Delegate Alberto Suarez talked about the union's part in the work of the ANIR [National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts]. He stressed that "everything must have its material foundation, but we are also rich in human potential and the talent of the specialists who keep many cultural facilities running. The union

must guide and support this activity because this talent is not being exploited sufficiently in order to solve problems."

One of the most widely debated subjects and the topic of many speeches was the number of actors who left the union by switching from the ICRT [Cuban Institute of Radio and Television] to the National Actors Registry. Actress Ana Jimenez said "it's been about two years since our sector has had a union."

Actor Jorge Rivera spoke at length in this regard and proposed that Pedro Ross take part in organizing the union for this sector.

Actresses Oneida Hernandez and Martha Velasco stressed that the problems confronting these workers take a variety of forms in the areas of theater, television, cinema, and radio. They expressed the willingness and the interest of those affected in forming a union.

The CTC general secretary accepted the invitation, and it was agreed that there would be a meeting to organize this group of actors into a union at ICRT headquarters on 22 October.

Stage actor Alberto Curbelo noted that "changing structures does not change everything, and the union has its area of responsibility. Our workers are unrepresented, and we are wasting time on mundane problems rather than doing our duty as defenders of quality art and culture."

Martha Martinez de Santelices read a lengthy document on the problems musicians face. She appealed to specialists, leaders, and all those present to reflect on these issues and find a way to resolve them because "the artist is the best ambassador there is."

A key point in her speech—and one that also came up in other provincial assemblies—was the hiring of amateur and retired musicians. She discussed the harm this does to professionals and said the practice degrades the quality of our culture, especially the way it is experienced by tourists.

Juan Garcia pointed to the need for our specialists to pay more attention to traditional popular culture.

In another part of his speech he talked about the need for closer ties between the national union and its locals. He said problems of art and culture should be discussed at all levels of the union.

Delegate Jose Gonzalez noted the breadth of the problems and opinions aired at the assembly and the diversity of the cultural union membership. He called for setting up forums for debating the issues raised "to add continuity to the Congress" and to treat subjects of interest to workers in greater depth.

More Efficient Collective Work

Armando Hart, minister of culture, delivered a special address about the new situations that have arisen in the country as the economic measures have taken effect. They also raise new questions, he said. He emphasized that the Ministry, the Union, and all interested parties must collectively study these problems and work together in the search for solutions.

He also said he had come to the SNTC Congress with answers to many of the sector's problems and concerns. These included the hiring, evaluation, and payment of artists in shows and musical performances. Hart praised the SNTC, the CETSS, and all the other organizations and institutions that worked together in the analysis of these problems. Although there are issues still unresolved, he said the will to work together and to continue moving ahead remains.

The minister stressed the need for depth in relations between the administration and the union given the new and complex problems that have arisen in the cultural sphere. He called for more efficient collective leadership with broad worker participation to fortify and enhance our cultural identity.

Singer and composer Teresita Fernandez discussed children's art. Cultural workers should seek to complement the educational efforts of teachers and parents, she said.

Eusebio Leal, the historian who directs the City Museum, stressed the importance of museums and the significance of their dispersion to municipalities nationwide. "Some things have no material value," he said. Hence the importance of the symbols enshrined in these institutions and the need to preserve them.

Leal called for recognition for those who work in museums. A solution must be found to the previously raised problem of extending to custodians and guards the attention and pay they deserve, he said.

Before Leal spoke, this subject was the topic of a wide-ranging debate initiated by Gladys Rodriguez of the Hemingway Museum. It continued with remarks from several others including Sonia Jimenez of the City Museum.

Thoughts of Pedro Ross

During the Congress's session in the capital, the CTC Secretary General made repeated enlightening comments about ideas expressed by the delegates.

In discussing the difficulties that stem from the country's current economic situation, Pedro Ross offered a cogent meditation on how the government is responding. Despite the crisis triggered by the blockade and the demise of the socialist bloc, Ross said Cuba is making an effort to keep the cultural institutions created by the Revolution running.

He urged workers in this field to put efficiency and quality first in their efforts to preserve cultural development. Observing the principles of austerity can lessen the burden placed on the nation's finances by cultural activities, education, welfare, and other achievements of socialism, he said.

The labor leader called for realistic in-depth analysis of this premise. He added that overcoming the nation's current plight demands intelligent economic problem-solving based on initiative and willingness to contribute. He cautioned that preserving these achievements may mean postponing some dreams and aspirations that we are not now able to satisfy.

Agreement in Principle

A motion by delegate Ileana Azor affirming the unflagging commitment of cultural workers to the defense of the Revolution carried unanimously. It stressed the workers' adherence to the ideological values of Cuban culture, to Cuba's sense of identity as a nation, and to its ethical and moral principles.

Art and culture are the foundation upon which this sector bases its work. They are expressions of an irreversible patriotic and revolutionary process anchored in the essential doctrines of Jose Marti as they come to the fore in these trying times.

Those assembled observed a moment of silence in honor of Uruguayan theater figure Atahualpa del Cioppo, who died in Havana, and sent a message of condolence to Latin American theater artists for this irreparable loss.

Other Speeches

During the afternoon and early evening several speakers took the floor to discuss the amateur arts movement, cultural centers, writers, and publishing. Discussion focused, among other topics, on the limitations and innovations that current circumstances require.

The Juan Marinello Cultural Contingent came in for criticism for its poor performance in some areas. However, the results it achieved in Central Havana and Old Havana were positive enough for some to call for revitalization of the movement at the municipal level.

Putting Talent To Work for the People

"Cultural workers are producers, not parasites," proclaimed Abel Prieto at the closing session of the Fourth SNTC Congress in Havana.

He stressed the need to eliminate all obstacles "to putting talent to work for our people." This requires unity and cooperation to increase the impact of culture on the community, he said.

The UNEAC president said the union should promote cultural quality, and he stressed that doing this has a high moral and ethical content. It is also bound up with the values we receive from Marti, with the nurturing of cultural sensitivity, and with teaching people to preserve our cultural and natural heritage. Culture, he pointed out, has a bearing on the quality of life.

He went on to note that the country has made an enormous investment in its cultural talent. What workers in this field want is a chance to be useful, he said, and they should not be regarded as superficial or obstructionist. They produce something very valuable that must receive dissemination and popular recognition. (Mercedes Santos Moray, Antonieta Cesar, and Jorge Rivas Rodriguez)

Barbados

Sandiford Returns Home Following Coronary Tests

FL0411010593 Bridgetown CANA in English 2142 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov 3, CANA—Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford returned home Wednesday after undergoing a series of tests in a United States hospital for a partially blocked coronary artery.

Sandiford, who came down with the heart condition in Trinidad during a Caribbean Community/Latin American Heads of Government Conference, spent two weeks at the Washington Cardiology Centre where he underwent treatment for the condition.

"I feel fine, I am feeling in better shape than I was before I left because the condition which showed itself up in terms of the angina pectoris has been cleared up," the prime minister said.

Dominica

Eugenia Charles Calls for Unity, Banana Reform

FL0411003093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2008 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Nov 3, CANA—Dominica on Wednesday marked the 15th anniversary of political independence of Britain, with prime minister, Dame Eugenia Charles reminding islanders of their problems and calling for a "united approach" to solving them. Addressing a traditional independence day parade, Dame Eugenia said:

"I ask for a united approach, one that seeks to find solutions that are realistic and quick-acting, and for the support of all of us in implementing them for the advantage of the great majority, so that we can deal with the many social problems which confront us."

Dame Eugenia listed the establishment of the single European market which she complained put Dominica's banana trade in jeopardy, forces threatening unity, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and

the diverting of developmental assistance from the Caribbean to European countries, among the problems facing Dominica.

"The United States, in particular, seems to have withdrawn from its close relationship with our region, and aid flows from that country have virtually dried up," she said.

In the address, the prime minister brushed aside speculation that her Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) remained divided after a leadership battle in which External Affairs Minister Brian Alleyne emerged as leader-designate to succeed Charles when she steps down. Dame Eugenia also said the island's banana industry needs a major restructuring to ensure profitability.

"The banana industry is in urgent need of a disciplined and target-specific restructuring process," she said. "The restructuring of the industry is simply to re-organise the industry along commercial lines, instituting a corporate structure which is responsive to change and which encourages good management, creditable performances, and places a high rating on accountability."

For the past several years, the banana industry had been Dominica's main foreign exchange earner. It accounted for at least 70 percent of the foreign exchange earned from the country's exports.

Haiti

Malval 'Will Resign' If No Settlement Within 20 Days

PM0311150593 Paris LE MONDE in French 3 Nov 93 p 8

[Martine Jaciot report on interview with Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval on 1 November in Port-au-Prince: "The Prime Minister Will Resign 'If the Crisis Is Not Settled Within 20 Days'"]

[Text] There seems to be a stalemate in Haiti, where exiled president Jean-Bertrand Aristide was unable to regain power on 30 October as envisaged by the agreement which he signed with the putschist military in New York in July under the United Nations' auspices. The United Nations is demanding the opening of talks on Wednesday 3 November between Robert Malval, the prime minister who was appointed by the president but has in effect been prevented from governing, and the military. The military have yet to reply to the invitation, and many neo-Duvalierist leaders are in any case "invisible," as Mr. Malval says in an interview for LE MONDE.

In downtown Port-au-Prince, the National Palace and the ministries are empty. On Ludovic Street, on one of the capital's hills, Prime Minister Robert Malval's villa is seething with activity: This sumptuous residence is the seat of the Haitian Government appointed by President-in-exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The members often sleep here since one of their colleagues, Justice Minister Guy Malary, was assassinated in broad daylight on 14 October by plain-clothes "attaches" who do the dirty work of the military police.

A huge satellite dish fills the garden, and the ministers are preparing for a council session in the dining room, which leads to the reception room where Mr. Malval received us on Monday 1 November. The prime mission of this 50-year-old editor and printer, a middle-class mulatto on his father's side (his mother is of Marotine Lebanese descent) seems almost impossible. "Two galaxies," he sums up, "are confronting each other, that of the Lavalassians (supporters of Father Aristide) and that of the Duvalierists. Either they clash, which means disaster, or else they find an area of understanding on their periphery, in the moderate fringes of these extremes."

Mr. Malval seems to come across a lot of shooting stars along his pilgrimage. "Those who have guts often lack the vision of a statesman, and those who have that vision lack guts." The task seems all the more arduous to him because, in the Duvalierist galaxy, "the principal leaders are invisible." They are happy to let "FRAPH (Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti) agitators occupy the streets." And the leaders will stay behind the scenes "until such time as they are involved in all-embracing negotiations," he believes. Mr. Malval, who says he is "tired," has thus far found only three people in the Duvalierist camp with the "courage" to realize that "the current situation demands a new vision." Among them are Alix Cineas, a former minister under Jean-Claude Duvalier, who arranged for his exile in 1986, and Frank Romain, ex-chief of police and former mayor of Port-au-Prince. The quest is even less fruitful among his "friends"—Mr. Malval emphasizes this—among the bourgeoisie. "Caught between their fear of Father Aristide and their fear of the attaches, they prefer to keep quiet," the prime minister observes with disappointment.

Mr. Malval, who has diplomas in political sciences from the University of Miami and from the IEP in Paris, is a highly respected person, even in the ranks of the Army. He is one of the very few Haitians whom everyone takes at his word when he says that he does not like politics and that he cannot wait to resume his "former quiet life." Having resigned but been begged to remain in his post by President Aristide, he sees his mission in terms of a "dynamic of negotiations," and will resign "if the crisis is not settled within 20 days." A period during which the Governor's Island accord, signed in New York last July between the military putschists and the exiled president, has one last chance of being salvaged through the new talks which the United Nations has proposed for Wednesday 3 November. The head of the Armed Forces has not yet replied to the invitation. Mr. Malval, for his part, will represent his president.

Between these two men from entirely different backgrounds, an identity of views is by no means automatic. "You remember," Mr. Malval said, smiling, "that celebrated saying: 'He's him and I'm me.'" At the time of his investiture in the Haitian parliament at the end of August, Mr. Malval solemnly admitted that "mistakes were made" during the seven months of Father Aristide's government prior to its overthrow in September 1991. But it is out of the question, in his view, to contemplate for a moment a solution involving "Malval without Aristide." It is a question of ethics for this upright man.

Three Political Parties Demand New Elections

FL0311181393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Political parties continue to make demands either to hold new elections, and therefore to apply Article 149, or to update the Governors Island agreement. Those political parties even wrote to General Cedras to express their points of view regarding the crisis.

Attorney Francois Latortue of MODEL [Democratic Revolutionary Party Of Haiti], Volvic Remy Joseph of MKL [National Cooperative Action Movement] and Dr. Greger Jean-Louis of MOP [Movement for the Organization of the Country] point out that, first of all, the return of President Aristide in peace and harmony does not exist. Second, the parliament, largely paralyzed by the attitude of the blind servants of President Aristide, has not been able to accomplish the task that has devolved upon it; that the government has been inoperative, acting basically clandestinely and unable to manage the situation created by the resumption of the embargo.

For those reasons, the three party leaders ask for respect of the points of the Governors Island agreement, in everything that is not directly opposed to constitutional or legal provisions; the extension of the government, as provided in this agreement, so that it includes at least half of the party leaders represented in the parliament.

Another request from those leaders, in the event that the international community could verify and recognize the nonexistence of the conditions of return of President Aristide in harmony and peace: Francois Latortue, Volvic Remy Joseph, and Greger Jean-Louis claim the return to Article 149 of the Constitution and the formation of a concord government made primarily of the political party leaders represented in parliament under the aegis of a prime minister designated with the arbitration of the United Nations. The mission of this government will be the holding of general elections within a given period. Those are the proposals made by MODEL-PRDH, MKN, and MOP to Gen. Raoul Cedras and to the international community.

Aristide on Condition for Discussions With Army

FL0311163293 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] As I speak, no answer has reached international mediator Dante Caputo concerning holding this summit meeting that should begin today [3 November]. UN spokesman Eric Falt told AFP as late as last night [2 November], quote, we have nothing new concerning the invitations that were made. [no unquote as heard] He, however, did not comment on the long delay. Nothing is known about the possible stand of the military except that they have not yet sent an answer.

The General Staff of the Haitian Armed Forces [advises] in a press release that it was informed during a courtesy visit by Dr. Rafael Gonzalez Pantaleon of his proposal for a way out of the crisis in Haiti. The command noted that this plan seems to constitute for the Haitians an exhortation to dialogue between all sectors in the national life, a dialogue the Armed Forces have always advocated and nourished as a peaceful solution to the crisis.

For his part, Antoine Joseph [president of the Chamber of Deputies] is in consultation with the five political groups of the Chamber of Deputies and will likely make his stand known today. Yet Senator Firmin Jean-Louis [president of the Senate] has observed a complete silence. But the government also has not yet responded to the invitation. An emissary of President Aristide should have arrived on 2 November bearing a letter from the head of state explaining that if the discussions revolved on the true problems, that is, on the departure of the Army General Staff and Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Michel Francois, he could participate in them. Jean-Bertrand Aristide does not want to deal with General Cedras:

[Begin recording] [Aristide] I am not interested in his answer, I am interested in his departure. If it is—as I clearly said in a letter to Special Envoy Dante Caputo—a dialogue which will result immediately in respect for the agreement, that is, the departure of Gen Cedras, the members of the Haitian Army high command, [Lt.] Col. Michel Francois—yes, I am ready to participate in it. If it is a stalling maneuver, absolutely not.

[Radio France International correspondent] So, no negotiations are possible if the discussions ever start up on 3 November?

[Aristide] As far as I am concerned [last six words in Creole], they can be called negotiations or dialogue. What interests me is that the true problem—which is the departure of those who violated the agreement and who keep killing—be posed right away. [end recording]

This was Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was interviewed by Radio France International. Those requirements were set out on 28 October at the tribune of the United Nations and were disapproved by mediator Caputo and the White House, protesting that they should confine

themselves to the Governors Island agreement. The Malval government was delighted about that. [sentence as heard] On 30 October, Emile Jean-Baptiste, spokesman for the head of government, advised that they had given their theoretical consent to this initiative and that the government was waiting for the agenda of the meeting before showing an official stand.

'Technical Problems' Prevent Distribution of Diesel Fuel

FL0311173893 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] The strategic stock of diesel oil will not be distributed. The National Association of Distributors of Petroleum Products [ANADIPP] cannot meet the recommendations of the government. The ANADIPP board of directors advises the public in general and the members of the association in particular that after numerous working sessions with the prime minister, the minister of commerce and industry, and the governor of the Bank of the Republic of Haiti, the sale of a portion of the strategic stock of diesel oil through gas stations proved to be impossibile because of technical problems and, notably, to lack of adequate legal coverage for the use of gas station equipment by the dealers. Because ANADIPP's vocation is service to the community, the dealers are awaiting an urgent untangling of the petroleum situation, concludes a press release issued by ANADIPP and signed by the board of directors of this association.

Cedras: 'Army Renounces All Servitude to a Government'

FL0411000993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Some cadets graduated today. The graduation ceremony was held this morning. [passage omitted].

There were 28 to be graduated this morning at the Military Academy in Port-au-Prince. The celebration was dedicated to Captain Chery Germain who chose not to abandon his post at the Port-au-Prince arsenal during the American intervention in Haiti in 1915. These cadets just spent 32 months at the military academy where they received basic military training. General Cedras stressed that by choosing Chery to be the godfather of this event, they hoped to offer to the youths an example of courage, decision, and nationalism. He invites each Haitian to keep the national patrimony intact.

In his address, the Army's first-in-command asks why the Army is being blamed as accomplice to all the ills of the country. The Army carries a history of vileness, but also of greatness, stressed Gen. Cedras. The Army, according to the commander in chief, has learned that in addition to [providing] constitutional order, it must be the catalyst, the engine of change in this country adrift, by respecting the rules of the democratic game, of course: [Begin Cedras recording] The Army wants the military to be an open, pragmatic vanguard. It refuses, however, to be in power, a power which, it is convinced, must remain civilian. However, it also renounces all servitude to a government. It believes that a governing person must transcend the personal in order to affect the entire country.

Officers, that is why today, your institution which has sometimes been dishonored, which has been through a partial breakup, wishes to include itself in a process of recovery that will certainly be long, but sure. Not by resisting the international community, but by maintaining, under the weight of some unlimited sanctions, it will retain its unity, the rectitude of this new orientation, and the survival in honor and this country's dignity. Haiti can still benefit from the unity of all its real sons, and remain ours.

You understand now why the General Command entrusts you with the mission of bringing to life not the memory of an Army general, but of the great Capt. Chery Germain who, voluntarily forgotten and wounded by the sons of those who compelled him to give in to the occupant, refused to compromise the sacred charge of his post. [end recording]

This was an excerpt of statements by General Cedras who also criticized the unrestrained ambition of the collaborators. It is to be noted that Cadet (Beaugouin) Lewis is the major of this promotion.

Denies Rumors of Division in Army

PA0311212793 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1835 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Report by Lucia Prez Moreno]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 3 Nov (NOTIMEX)—General Raoul Cedras, commander of the Haitian Army, today denied the existence of a split in the Armed Forces high command and said the command desires the return to a civilian government that does away with "servilism."

In his first public appearance since 30 October, when Jean-Bertrand Aristide should have reassumed power, Cedras criticized the international community for questioning Haitian institutions. "The Army is a pragmatic force that does not want power but refuses to obey a civilian government," Cedras said during a ceremony to award diplomas and badges to graduates of Haiti's Military Academy. Cedras invited local and foreign reporters to the ceremony to dispel rumors of his alleged loss of control over the Armed Forces.

Diplomatic sources said in Port-au-Prince yesterday that the Haitian Army is divided over how to respond to the United Nations offer and on when and to whom the command should be given. "Cedras is politically spent. There is no trust in the Army," the sources said. During today's ceremony, however, Cedras was accompanied by

the high command, including Gen. Jean Claude Duperval and Emanuel Mayard.

Cedras said the Army accepted roles that "no law had defined. Therefore, he was forced to act outside the law." He said the Armed Forces' Achilles' heel was their political and geopolitical myopia. He warned that the country should have a ruler who can act beyond his personality, clearly alluding to Aristide.

Cedras avoided reporters' questions. One of his associates asked them "not to mix politics with military matters."

Army Gives Conditional Acceptance to UN Proposal for Talks

PA0411023593 Paris AFP in Spanish 0201 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 3 Nov (AFP)—The UN spokesman in Haiti announced that the Haitian Army has agreed in principle and with certain conditions to the UN proposal to hold new discussions on the crisis in Haiti on Friday and Saturday. The other parties accepted "without prior conditions."

Spokesman Eric Falt added that the Haitian Armed Forces' reply was contained in a letter received by UN Mediator Dante Caputo on Wednesday morning, but "there are some questions" and some aspects that "require clarification." Caputo sent a letter to General Raoul Cedras, Armed Forces commander in chief, to point out that the discussions must focus on "the strict application of the agreement" reached at Governors Island. This agreement would have culminated with the return from exile of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted by the Army on 30 September 1991.

Falt declined to give specifics on the Army's position. Sources close to the negotiations said the military is asking for a revision of the Governors Island agreement, but they were unable to specify the magnitude of the revision.

Falt stated that on Wednesday the United Nations received the "official" and "without prior conditions" acceptance of the other parties—Aristide, Prime Minister Robert Malval, and the Senate president. The official reply from the Chamber of Deputies president has not yet been received, but it will be positive, Falt concluded.

Belgium Freezes Assets of Haitian Military Regime

LD0411112493 Brussels Radio Vlaanderen International in English 1000 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Belgium has frozen all assets of the military regime of Haiti. Belgium took such action on request of the United States, which had already frozen all American bank accounts of the 41 leaders of the Haitian Army and police force. Switzerland has also joined the United States in applying sanctions against certain Haitian individuals. In fact, the United States has called on all nations of the world to take similar measures.

Washington argues that the military leaders in Haiti are blocking democratization by preventing the ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide from returning to his country. Mr. Aristide himself has repeated his call for tougher sanctions against the military regime in Haiti.

St. Lucia

Banana Strike Leaves Wake of Accusations

FL0311221593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1525 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, 3 Nov, CANA—A senior Catholic priest has asked the government to take action on media allegations of corruption involving unnamed public officials. Monseigneur Patrick Anthony made the call after the National Workers Union (NWU) and the St. Lucia Civil Service Association (CSA) wrote Prime Minister John Compton, urging him to take action.

"I think it is important that the air be cleared, because if people are accused of certain things, they ought to be given an opportunity to clear themselves," Anthony told CANA. He said it was important that "the truth come out." Anthony referred to allegations and countercharges after the dissolution of the board of the St. Lucia Banana Growers Association (SLBGA) last month.

Compton, in announcing the dissolution, had indicated that the association was bankrupt and owed EC23 million dollars (one East Caribbean dollar = 37 cents U.S.) He also indicated that certain directors of the board were guilty of mismanagement and corruption. But chairman of the dissolved board, Elisha Marquis, dismissed the prime minister's claims.

Marquis accused the prime minister of seeking a "scapegoat" in the aftermath of a three-day strike by banana farmers which left two dead and several others injured.

El Salvador

Unidentified Individuals Attack FMLN Regional Leader

PA0311182693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1732 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] San Salvador, 3 Nov (NOTIMEX)—A group of unidentified individuals attacked a regional leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) today, Joaquin Villalobos, leader of the FMLN political organization, charged here today.

The attacked FMLN leader was identified as Gabriel Quintanilla, coordinator of the political party in San Jorge, San Miguel Department, in the eastern part of the country.

"Quintanilla is in critical condition, because he sustained four bullet wounds," Villalobos explained. The attack occurred at 0515 (1115 GMT), when Quintanilla, a university professor, was leaving his home to go to work.

This is the third attack against FMLN members in the past 10 days. Last week death squads killed former guerrilla Commanders Francisco Velis and Heleno Castro.

FMLN Coordinator Seriously Wounded

PA0311214493 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Nov 93

[From the "Facing the Moment" newscast]

[Text] Professor Gabriel Quintanilla, FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] coordinator in San Jorge Municipality, San Miguel Department, was shot by unidentified men this morning and is currently in critical condition.

FMLN leader Joaquin Villalobos said Professor Quintanilla was attacked by several unidentified men as he left his home in El Mogote Canton at 0515 today, Wednesday.

In a news conference, Joaquin Villalobos said the attack is part of the dirty war by the extreme right-wing movement against this political organization.

According to Villalobos, this new attack on an FMLN member disproves the statements made by Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria, who said the recent murder of Eleno Castro and other leaders have been common crimes.

We now we have a report by William Hernandez from San Miguel Department.

[Hernandez] We are now at the eastern medical center of this city, where Gabriel Quintanilla has been treated over the last few hours. Quintanilla, FMLN coordinator in San Jorge Municipality of San Miguel Department, received four wounds from machine-gun fire at approximately 0430,.

According to neighbors, empty cartridges from small .45-caliber and .38-caliber weapons were found at the scene. The events occurred in San Julian Canton, San Jorge jurisdiction.

As we said, Quintanilla was brought to the medical center and is now in surgery. He entered the emergency room, and we have just been told that Mr. Gabriel Quintanilla is now slightly out of the critical stage. We will simply wait for him to come out of the anesthesia.

Quintanilla's relatives have said that he had not received any threats.

Over the last days few days it has been said that a member of the 3d Infantry Brigade traveled in the same vehicle that Mr. Gabriel Quintanilla drove. When they arrived in San Miguel, he got out of the vehicle and entered the 3d Infantry Brigade.

A person who was in the same car in which Jose Gabriel Quintanilla was traveling this weekend made the statements, but he refused to give his name.

We will now talk to one of Quintanilla's relatives, who minutes later came to the place where Gabriel Quintanilla was shot.

Can you tell us what happened after you arrived at the scene?

[Unidentified man] I was at home at 0430. I was about to get up for work when I heard the first two shots, and immediately after I heard four more shots. There were six shots all together. I got up and a short while later I was told that my cousin Gabriel had been shot. We took the car and went to pick him up. He was lying on the floor. We picked him up, and I took him [words indistinct]. I asked him whether he had recognized anyone, and he said, unfortunately, that he had not, because he had struggled with one of them but did not recognize him. He just said he was dressed, that all three of them were dressed in black.

As I said, unfortunately I could not get any information from him because he said he had not recognized any of them.

That is all I can say about the attack.

[Hernandez] That was one of Jose Gabriel Quintanilla relative's, who drove Quintanilla to the medical center in eastern of San Miguel.

FMLN Rejects Explanation of Death

PA0311195993 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Nov 93

[From the "Facing the Moment" newscast]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] today rejected the official explanation that former Commander Heleno Hernan Castro had died as a result of a street argument. Joaquin Villalobos, in statements to the press, labeled as ridiculous what Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria had said on 1 November: that Castro died as a result of a criminal action.

According to Villalobos, former Commander "Carmelo" was working on the land transfers in the eastern part of the country, making him a target of attacks by the former land owners and businessmen in that region.

Meanwhile, the FMLN leader denied that this political party was involved in the recent murder of a Nationalist Republican Alliance regional assemblyman in San Miguel Department. Villalobos said: We have nothing to do with this; we will not respond in this fashion to the attacks against our members.

Onusal To Investigate Murders

PA0411042393 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] According to last-minute news from New York, the UN secretary general has asked the UN mission in El Salvador to cooperate with the government and other interested parties in an immediate investigation of the illegal groups that have resumed political violence in the country.

In a letter sent to the Security Council president, Butrus Butrus-Ghali said today he has asked the Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] Human Rights Division director to conduct the investigations recommended by the Truth Commission with the assistance of experts as necessary. Butrus-Ghali said that on 25 October he was deeply saddened after hearing about the death squad-style murder of a Farabundo National Liberation Front leader. He added that the murder was followed by the killing of another commander of the former guerrillas. The secretary general said the deaths follow other acts of violence and human rights violations in the past few months, which have led to concerns about illegal groups resuming operations, a practice that prevailed in the past.

Guatemala

Government Denies Suspending 28 Nov Plebiscite

PA0311232793 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2056 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Government denied today, Wednesday, that it has accepted the Catholic Church's proposal to suspend the plebiscite scheduled for 28 November to resume the dialogue with the deputies.

Hector Luna Troccoli, secretary general of the Presidency, told the media that preparations for the popular consultation continue and explained that "what was agreed upon was a suspension of hostilities."

The purpose of the plebiscite is to consult citizens to determine whether they agree with President Ramiro De Leon Carpio in demanding the resignation of 116 deputies and nine Supreme Court magistrates.

According to Luna Troccoli, the decision does not contradict the call made by the Bishops Conference, which agreed to mediate if the deputies temporarily suspended the constitutional reforms and the president suspended the popular consultation.

The president's representative said the plebiscite cannot be used as a referendum to reform the Constitution, as the deputies and bishops had requested, because they are two different processes.

The decision to go ahead with the popular consultation was criticized by independent Deputy Jose Carlos Acevedo, who is participating in the legislative-executive negotiations. According to Acevedo, it demonstrates De Leon's lack of commitment to resolving the crisis he himself brought about.

The Bishops Conference offered its good offices to end the confrontation, which the president has maintained with the deputies after demanding their resignation.

According to the Catholic Church, dialogue is the only mechanism that can lead to a solution to the country's political crisis, which deteriorated following the self-inflicted coup on 25 May.

Legislature, Executive Reportedly Agree To Mediation

PA0411000193 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 3 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] Monsignor Gerardo Flores Reyes, president of the Guatemalan Episcopal Conference (CEG), revealed last night that the legislative and executive commissions have agreed to the Catholic Church's mediation and its recommendations to solve the country's political crisis. Flores said the CEG's role will be to observe the progress of talks between the government branches and to ensure that the agreements reached in those talks are kept. He asserted that the parties agreed that the CEG would be guarantor and witness, which means that it will have the moral authority to demand that each side keeps the accords.

According to the Verapaz bishop, "the attitude of both parties was very positive and will allow the representatives to reach agreements without political tricks." He added that there has been a marked interest in the church's proposal at the two meetings of representatives from the executive and legislative branches. We hope the crisis will be resolved and that we can lay the foundation for the solution of the constitutional crisis that has existed in Guatemala for many years, he added. The Guatemalan bishops will meet tomorrow, he said.

Eleven Congressmen Participate in a Meeting

Eleven deputies were present at yesterday's meeting at 1700 at the CEG installations. The deputies talked with three bishops about the Catholic Church's proposal to mediate between the government organizations to find a solution to the crisis.

The deputies who attended the meeting were: UCN [Union of the National Center] Secretary General Juan Ayerdi; Rene Barrios; Arnoldo Wilhen; Jose Lobo Dubon [Christian Democrat]; [former UCN member] Jose Carlos Acevedo Chavarria; Juan Francisco Reyes Lopez; Hermindo Alvarez del Cid [Solidarity Action Movement]; Mario Solorzano [Democratic Socialist Party]; Arturo Amiel Escobar; [National Advancement Front Secretary General] Abundio Maldonado; and Arturo Soto Aguirre [Guatemalan Republican Front]. Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, secretary general of the Guatemalan Christian Democracy, also attended the meeting.

The CEG representatives were: Monsignor Gerardo Flores Reyes, president; Monsignor Antonio Bernasconi, deputy secretary general; and Monsignor Alvaro Ramazzini, San Marcos bishop.

They Called the Meeting Positive

Alfonso Cabrerar Hidalgo said the meeting, which ended a few minutes before 1900, had been positive and added that they had initiated contacts with the Executive Branch commission last night in an effort to resolve the crisis promptly. He added that each deputy promised to make the necessary contacts to start the negotiations this morning. According to Cabrera, Jose Lobo Dubon and Arturo Solo Aguirre promised to call the meeting.

Cabrera asserted that the "CEG task is commendable as it will allow for a reconciliation of the government branches and thus solve the crisis." He added that if an agreement is reached between the legislative and executive branches, the rest of the problem is easier to tackle as the parties have stated their political willingness to do so. We are not interested in getting both commissions to sit down and talk just to see how each side can protect their specific sectors. Our concern is to save the country with serious and responsible positions, Cabrera concluded.

Talks Begin Today

Legislative President Jose Lobo Dubon expressed his appreciation for the CEG's proposal and efforts. He promised to attend to the Church's mandate.

Defense Minister Says Army Opposes Constitutional Reforms

PA0311131093 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 1 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] Defense Minister Mario Enriquez Morales stated yesterday that the Army opposes the constitutional reforms promoted by the deputies, because it is unwilling to be placed under the tutelage of a pluralistic and partisan organization. "The deputies are exaggerating the law reforms. I consider that the Armed Forces should not be under the command of a unit, entity, institution, or organization that has political affiliations, such as Congress, because the Army has to be totally separated from such activities," he said.

He said the parliamentarians should patiently verify the benefits to be obtained by the people from specific constitutional changes and should not succumb to revengeful actions against the Executive Branch. He added that the legislators already know that the Army does not approve of the reforms, as it does not want to be manipulated by organizations because it is an institution that respects the democratic process. Enriquez Morales stated that deputies should not present an inflexible attitude, rather a reasonable attitude to find benefits for all the people in a joint manner.

Regarding the alleged legalization of coup d'etats in the constitutional reforms, the minister said the parliamentarians' intentions were to stop attitudes such as the one maintained by former President Jorge Serrano. "The remedy could be worse, however, than the ailment," he stated.

Confirms Entry of Belizeans

Defense Minister General Mario Enriquez Morales confirmed yesterday that Belizean soldiers have entered Guatemalan territory in the past months although he justified those entries and said they cannot be considered raids, as Belize is still a territory in dispute.

At a meeting of Guatemala, Belize, and UK military authorities on 28 October, it was agreed to allow for a waiting period to thoroughly investigate the situation, as everything seems to indicate that the problem lies in the lack of a dividing line to limit the borders, said the top military chief.

Division General Jose Luis Quilo Ahuso, chief of the General Staff of National Defense, told me that according to the people who have been negatively affected, the Belizeans go to Peten communities and only cause destruction, Enriquez stated. Based on this information, a detailed report was sent to Foreign Minister Arturo Fajardo Maldonado who will determine if a note is to be sent to the UK Embassy for the necessary measures to be taken. Prior to this he must wait for the results of other investigations, however, as was agreed with Belizean and UK military authorities, he explained.

He Will Not Cover Up for Military Personnel

The top Army chief said that he will not cover up for military personnel involved in the illegal deforestation in the Peten area. He is not going to punish people on mere charges for alleged events either. He said the people who make those charges have to present the evidence and the Army will initiate the respective investigations.

"On 30 October I talked with Enma Diaz de Gordillo, executive secretary of the National Protected Areas Council [Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas], and asked her to give me the names of those involved in this case, which has been reported by the media. She told me that at no time has she presented any charges against any captain in the Peten 23d Military Zone, as the media has published," he stated.

The reporters who cover the National Palace were surprised by the information given by the defense minister, as with Mrs. Diaz de Gordillo's retraction, there are now two people who have recanted their statements regarding officers' participation in lumber trafficking. Previously, La Libertad Mayor Manuel Barquin had retracted too.

Nicaragua

Center Bloc Rejects UNO Conditions to Constitution Reforms

PA0311192593 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Report by Claudia Siria; from "National" newscast]

[Text] The Center Bloc has rejected the conditions imposed by the National Opposition Union [UNO] to achieve the constitutional reforms. Here is Claudia Siria with a report:

[Begin recording] [Siria] The Center Bloc has recognized that the UNO's proposal to promote constitutional reforms has positive aspects, even though it rejected the deadline imposed by the UNO as a condition for this process. Following is Gustavo Tablada Zelaya, president of the National Assembly and leader of the so-called Center Bloc.

[Tablada] First of all, we believe this deadline is unreasonable. It is unreasonable for the UNO to propose a deadline—30 November in this case—to discuss all matters pertaining to the constitutional reforms when there are so many sectors involved, and we must listen to all their opinions. It is impossible to do this in such a short time.

[Siria] The Center Bloc has also rejected the UNO's attempts to regain a majority in the National Assembly when there are other factions in the assembly that should be considered.

[Tablada] UNO deputies should rejoin the assembly. Once the various groups have returned, we could devise a legislative agenda to tackle the problems. We should discuss all these problems, as a group, to reach an agreement to review the membership of the board so that the changes that are deemed necessary can be made. [end recording]

* Leader Explains Communal Movement Goals

94CA0009A Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish No. 153, 16-22 Sep 93 pp 8-9

[Interview with Communal Movement National Coordinator Enrique Picardo by Edgard Solorzano; place and date not given—first five paragraphs EL SEMANARIO introduction]

[Excerpts] Enrique Picardo rarely likes to talk about himself. His mother, a poor woman from Chinandega, was widowed at the age of 29 with five children, four of whom died. It was impossible for him to go on to high school, so he finished grade school and then studied bookkeeping. He went to work at the San Antonio Sugar Mill, and it was his very poverty that gave him his social and political awareness. It also motivated him to join an organization that at one time worked for social causes and the poor based on a community or territorial approach: the former Sandinist Defense Committees (CDS).

Many years passed, years that included the stormy times of what ECLA [Economic Commission for Latin America] called the "lost decade" and during which the CDS gradually strayed from their purpose. It was also during this time that the conservative and American campaign diligently contributed to the exaggerated creation of a repressive, police-oriented image of what were originally communal organizations.

Nevertheless, the former CDS have naturally returned to their roots and formed a Communal Movement, one that is currently the best organized expression of civil society in Nicaragua. It embraces the enormous mass of excluded settlers, all manner of unemployed persons, persons have retired from the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], MINGO [Government Ministry (of Interior)], and members of the resistance who have laid down their arms.

Exercising democracy from the grass roots up, without asking permission, expanding rights by exercising them, instituting litigation against former homeowners, eternally fighting with the OOT [Office of Territorial Organization], organizing marches and assemblies, crystallizing experiences and the needs of thousands of settlers: This they do, driven by their eternal aspiration for full social autonomy and the urgent need, now more than ever, to gain control of their own destinies.

That is what the Communal Movement is now, led by a young man who has known them [the CDS] from the very beginning, who experienced their faults and who now perceives the signs of their current development. He is Enrique Picado. [passage omitted]

[Solorzano] What is the Movement's main strength?

[Picado] Our basic strength is in the area of health. In addition, we are leading the people's struggles.

[Solorzano] Given the political situation in the country, what is the position of the Communal Movement?

[Picado] It is our belief that we have to fight and work for the stabilization of the country, democratization, and our economic takeoff. We believe that politicians must first of all assume responsibility for an economic and social agenda, but so far they have continued to engage in politicking because all they care about is how much power they have. Further down in the rank and file, what is important is jobs, food, loans for production, and opposition to the privatization of public services.

[Solorzano] The Sandinist Defense Committees, which now comprise the Communal Movement, were an organizational entity of the government and the Sandinist Front itself. How did they achieve their autonomy?

[Picado] Until 1988, we performed a state and partisan task, but we decided that that had to end. It cost us a certain lack of understanding on the part of some members of the National Directorate, who accused us of betraying Sandinist principles. You have to remember that Omar Cabezas received a public memorandum from the National Directorate officially removing him because he fought for the movement's autonomy.

[Solorzano] Following Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's election victory, there was a kind of break in the movement. What was the reason?

[Picado] There was an emotional shock, both within Nicaraguan society and between leaders of the movement. I am talking about an emotional, mental shock. However, we later realized that as long as the Communal Movement was autonomous, we had to assume leadership of the tasks of society.

[Solorzano] Is the Communal Movement a movement of opposition to the government?

[Picado] Not at all. As a movement, we do not oppose the government. Rather, we fight any measures affecting the people. One of our goals is for the Communal Movement to go on forever, because, while governments come and go in the executive mansion and while political parties split and disappear, the problems of the real people are elsewhere.

[Solorzano] How are you organized?

[Picado] The essential core is the base via a small territorial expression in the neighborhood [barrio].

[Solorzano] How is the Communal Movement different from the Community Junta for Projects and Progress (JCOP)?

[Picado] The JCOP is an organizational project of Arnolodo Aleman. It is an instrument of the Constitutionalist Liberal Party concerned with securing Aleman's political groupings.

[Solorzano] In Nicaragua, there has been no civic-mindedness for several decades. What is your opinion of this crisis of civic duty?

[Picado] I have to say that we have a history of 500 years of distrust. This is a country of liberals and conservatives, people from Granada and Leon, Somozists and anti-Somozists, Contras and Compas. In other words, it is a country in upheaval beset by violence. However, I have absolute faith that we Nicaraguans have a profound civic-mindedness and patriotism. The Communal Movement promotes stabilization of the country and works for a civic struggle, dialogue, unified action, and consensus as modern instruments useful for solving any conflict.

[Solorzano] Civil demands have now been picked up by a movement headed by Pablo Antonio Cuadra, Francisco Mayorga, and others. What is your opinion of this?

[Picado] First of all, I do not think much of these leaders. Behind their civil proposals is a desire for destabilization and anarchy. I would like to believe in them, while asking them to make real civil proposals. We in the Communal Movement are bent on promoting civic and patriotic thought concerned with unity, solidarity, organization, and the struggle. At our next National Assembly, we are going to stress the need for unified action and dialogue from the rank and file. Those of us enduring the crisis must truly work together. In other words, through dialogue and pressure, we must force the government to assume its responsibilities.

[Solorzano] Where does the Communal Movement get its support?

[Picado] Only the strong survive. That is one of our main problems. However, we have help from a Swedish solidarity organization.

[Solorzano] Is the Communal Movement autonomous or does it take orders from the Sandinist Front?

[Picado] We are absolutely independent of the government, the municipalities, and the Sandinist Front. We are a true movement that does not receive any kind of party guidelines. We are neither an organic nor a statutory expression of the front.

[Solorzano] But how do you manage that autonomy when you are a member of the Sandinist Front?

[Picado] Well, that is a choice that has nothing to do with the Communal Movement. Furthermore, I ask the leaders of the Sandinist Front to understand that since 1992, the Communal Movement has come "of age."

[Solorzano] What kind of future do you see for the Communal Movement?

[Picado] A future that, based on the political contradictions and problems of the country, will enable us to grow with every passing day as an expression born of the

community. I see a future in which the Community instrument is the most viable way of exercising democracy.

[Solorzano] But if the situation should change and there were stabilization here in Nicaragua, what would the Communal Movement's role be? In that sense, what would the precise definition of the Communal Movement be?

[Picado] It would continue to be the same, that of a facilitator of a communal expression under other conditions and circumstances aimed at promoting community expression. Consequently, the organization's future is broad and eternal.

[Solorzano] The politicians are asking for constitutional reform. Do you have any such proposals?

[Picado] Of course. We are going to demand that the Constitution go more deeply into the social rights of the people. We want to make the right to recreation, culture, and basic services clear. In addition, we shall ask for a more precise definition of participatory democratization. From that angle, we are optimistic about constitutional reform.

Panama

Vice President Ford Expresses Surprise at UN Resolution

PA0311232893 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2117 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Panama City, 3 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian Vice President Guillermo Ford admitted today that he was "surprised" by the UN resolution against the U.S. blockade on Cuba following a vote in which the Panamanian delegate abstained.

According to the vice president, who today presided over celebrations marking the 90th anniversary of Panama's independence, the Panamanian representative to the United Nations abstained from voting following the instructions of President Guillermo Endara.

Diplomatic relations between Panama and Cuba are at the lowest level since the U.S. invasion of Panama on 20 December 1989, which ended 21 years of a military regime with which the Fidel Castro government maintained strong ties.

"We are surprised by the results of the voting, and we hope this decision will not become a backing for the dictatorship of Fidel Castro," Ford said. The vice president believes Castro should understand the message of the resolution to mean that "the exploitation of the Cuban people should end."

For a second consecutive year, the UN General Assembly has approved the resolution proposed by Cuba on the "need to end the economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba." A total of 88 countries voted in favor, four (Albania, the United States, Israel, and Paraguay) voted against, and 57 abstained, as compared to the voting last year of 59 votes in favor, three against (United States, Israel, and Romania), and 71 abstentions.

1994 Security Services Budgeted at More Than $120 Million

PA0311140393 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Nov 93 p 1A

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] Reports by the Legislative Assembly Budget Committee have disclosed that in 1994 the state's security services will have a budget of more than $120 million, which is comparable to the budget of the extinct Panama Defense Forces.

According to the documents, the state security services, which the Government and Justice Ministry control, will have a 1994 budget of $111 million; that is, $7 million more than in 1993.

Meanwhile, the Institutional Protection Service (SPI) and the Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) will have a budget of about $12 million; that is, $3 million more than in 1993.

According to the reports, the Cabinet Council has increased by $8 million the National Police budget for 1994, which amounts to $92 million. Of this amount, $57 million will be allocated for wages, $2 million for telecommunications, and $3 million for the acquisition of police materials and equipment.

The Canal Police will have a budget of $3 million, whereas the National Air Service (SAN) will have $9 million and the National Maritime Service (SMN) will have $6 million.

The state security services budget for 1994, which is an electoral year, surpasses that of 1993, which was approximately $110 million. This increase in the security services budget for 1994 makes it similar to the budget allocated to the extinct Panama Defense Forces, which was about $120 million.

Argentina

Argentine, UK Positions on Falklands 'Uncompromising'

PY0311120493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2243 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Nov (NA)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella reiterated today that the positions of Argentina and Great Britain on the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands are "uncompromising," despite the fact that our country "has a more comprehensive position on the lifestyle of the islanders."

Di Tella said that "everyone knows the Argentine position." He added that the government's "comprehensive" position on the lifestyle of the islanders "does not change in any way the basic Argentine claims. This is the message I conveyed to the foreign minister (Douglas Hurd). The presentation is different, but the essence is exactly the same," said the Argentine foreign minister, who is in London where he signed a new agreement for fishing in the South Atlantic.

Regarding the different positions reportedly held by the Conservative and Labor Parties on the sovereignty of the islands, Di Tella said the differences are "small" and "not substantial."

"Great Britain has many residual colonial situations, most of which are questioned" said Di Tella to a Buenos Aires radio station, from London. In this regard Di Tella played down the meeting the islanders will hold in London to study their situation.

Di Tella explained: "They will meet to talk about their future, but not necessarily about their independence, because some may want it and others may not, some may be afraid and others may feel they are not enough of an entity to form an autonomous state." Di Tella also pointed out the benefits obtained with the new fishing agreement, especially the increase in the quota for fishing squid to 220 metric tonnes, that is, 70 percent higher than in the previous treaty. Di Tella also emphasized the increase in fishing exports, which will reach $100 million a year in addition to the increase in jobs and activities in the ports of the south.

Further on Fishing, Gas Agreements With UK, Other Issues

PY0311145993 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 2 Nov 93 p 9

[Text] Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and his British Counterpart Douglas Hurd yesterday signed two important agreements: one which regulates the fishing of squid in the South Atlantic during next year's season, and another which allows British Gas to invest $1.6 billion in the Argentine-Chilean gas pipeline. Di Tella and Hurd confirmed to the press the consolidation of that investment, although they did not specify the form in which it will be made.

However, there were two other conflictive issues which the two foreign ministers could not overcome: the search for petroleum in the Malvinas Islands, and the military embargo which London has mantained against Argentina since the end of the war in 1982. The petroleum issue assumed a new political aspect when it was learned that the Kelpers will begin discussing the possibility of becoming independent, to become a free state associated with Great Britain.

The signing of the fishing agreement has prevented a "squid war" from being unleashed in the South Atlantic, which would increase the problems separating the two countries. In fact, the agreement had been negotiated between 18 and 19 October by experts in Buenos Aires, and its protocol signing was performed yesterday by the two foreign ministers.

British interest in this matter results from the sale of squid fishing licenses within the fishing preservation zone of 150 miles around the islands, which represents the greatest resource maintaining the economy of the Malvinas Islands. Because the squid move from north to south, there was a need to agree on the amount to be catched by each country to prevent the depredation of that species.

The contents of the agreement, which CLARIN published in advance on 20 October, are as follows:

—The Argentine Government promises to limit its fishing volume of illex squid "to 220,000 tonnes, with a maximum 80 foreign vessels." Last year our country unilaterally decided to limit the fishing of this species to 130,000 tonnes, and to sell only 45 licenses.

—The British Government also agrees to limit its fishing volume next year "during the 1993 season, so that the fishing of illex will be limited to 150,000 tonnes." Last year the British had a "ceiling" for their catch.

—Both countries will continue to conduct "joint research cruises" to learn for certain the amount of surface species that can be caught per year without depredating them.

—Concerning the problem involving South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, where Great Britain recently extended its control from 12 to 200 miles around the islands and began selling fishing licenses, both countries "took note" of the next meeting of the Commission for the Preservation of Living Antarctic Resources (CCRVMA). Argentina wants fishing to be regulated according to the guidelines of that commission.

The fishing agreement was signed during the first day of Di Tella's official visit to London, but after the meetings he held with Prime Minister John Major and with Hurd, in the company of Argentine Ambassador Mario Campora.

Before the signing ceremony for the "understanding" (this is the official name), Di Tella and Hurd held a

working meeting and a luncheon, which lasted almost three hours. During the talks the foreign minister again asked Hurd to lift the military embargo Great Britain has maintained on Buenos Aires since the Malvinas War. He made the request based on the policy of nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction conducted by the Peronist government, and on the fact that the two countries participate in joint UN peacekeeping operations, as in Cyprus. Hurd's reply was an order to leave a note, but "without making any commitment," according to Argentine sources.

That military embargo was what led Great Britain to pressure the United States not to provide long-range radars for the 36 Skyhawk fighter planes Argentina will purchase. Di Tella yesterday asked Hurd that as a demonstration of the rapprochement between the two countries, London itself should sell that type of radar to our country.

Government 'Will Not Change Its Mind' on Plebiscite

PY0311121193 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1947 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Mendoza, 2 Nov (NA)—Eduardo Bauza, secretary general of the presidency, has warned that "the government will not change its mind on the plebiscite, and those who are against it will suffer the same consequences suffered by our opponents on 3 October."

Bauza told local reporters that the government "will insist on the issue of constitutional reform and the continuation of the presidential system of government, because we believe the parliamentary system has failed." Regarding the possibility of reassessing the dialogue with the Radicals [Radical Civic Union, UCR] Bauza said: "In order to have a consistent dialogue the UCR must have a unified leadership and speak with a single voice."

"We, Justicialist Party followers, hope that the dialogue will be fruitful despite those who are betting against it. We believe the dialogue between political parties is very important for democracy," Bauza added.

Police Seize 'Great Quantity' of Weapons in Two Operations

PY0311141293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2133 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Text] Mar del Plata, 2 Nov (NA)—Today the provincial police seized a great quantity of weapons, ammunition, and bombs, and arrested two people at the end of two operations carried out on a tea shop and an apartment in the downtown area of this tourist resort, according to Judge Pedro Hooft, who headed the operation.

At the conclusion of the two operations Judge Hooft asserted that another two people were still at large. According to reliable sources, one of these two people fought in the war over the Malvinas, and is currently an intelligence agent.

Hooft confirmed that the two arrested people, who were being detained at the first police station in Mar del Plata, were arrested in the tea shop, although he did not reveal their identities nor any further details about them.

In the afternoon, while a high-ranking police official disclosed that these operations might be related to the activities of an alleged terrorist group, judicial sources revealed that several other raids in various points of this city had been ordered, but that their results had not been revealed.

According to Judge Hooft, among the weapons seized during the two operations were grenade launchers, flare launchers, cartridge belts, various caliber revolvers, Itaka shotguns, a great quantity of ammunition, black berets, and a knife similar to that used by tactical divers.

The weapons were confiscated during the two operations carried out on a tea shop located in the Los Teatros shopping center, where the "Tronador" theater is located, in the 1700 block of Santiago del Estero Street, and on an apartment in the 1700 block of Colon Avenue. The tea shop and apartment are both located in the downtown area.

Almost at the same time as the first raid took place on the tea shop on Santiago del Estero Street, an anonymous phone call warned that a bomb had been planted in the building where the Central Casino and the administration of the Punta Mogotes resorts function.

Later on, at approximately 1230, another anonymous call—received in the office of Judge Jose Antonio Martinelli—warned that a bomb would detonate "in a few minutes' time" in the local Court building. The police immediately ordered its evacuation. Although in both cases it was determined that they were "false alarms," a high-ranking police official told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that "it might have been a maneuver designed to break the police cordon" set up to arrest the two people at large.

As for the bomb threat against the Casino building, the accountant of the Punta Mogotes resort, Susana Salerno, explained that at 0845 a male voice warned that a bomb would detonate at 1000.

The building authorities ordered its evacuation and police experts immediately started searching the building, but they did not find any bomb. The first weapons were found in the tea shop on 1744 Santiago del Estero Street. Judge Hooft, who has been hearing a case involving the raided premises, appeared at the site together with the policemen.

Court spokesmen explained that Hooft is hearing a case investigating the alleged raping of minors, presumably in the tea shop where the weapons and bombs were found. The sources explained that it was through this investigation that it was determined to raid the tea shop where the policemen found the war arsenal.

Shortly after 1000 police agents who participated in the operation informed Judge Hooft of their findings. Hooft immediately ordered that the flow of traffic and people in the zone be interrupted. At the sane time the judge ordered the authorities of the Explosives Brigade to take away all that had been seized at the tea shop.

Several hours later, presumably as a result of what had been seized at the tea shop, Hooft ordered the raid against the apartment on Colon Avenue, where the police seized a significant quantity of weapons and ammunitions. A high-ranking police source revealed that "although attempts have been made to conceal the results of the operations," the great quantity of weapons found in the apartment on Colon Avenue "surprises and alarms" the authorities.

Due to the finding of bombs and weapons, most of which had registration numbers identifying them as belonging to the Armed Forces, Judge Hooft disclosed that he would submit the evidence obtained to the Federal Court.

Federal Judge Alberto Cangiani, who will hear the case, had by late this afternoon still not received the reports.

Bolivia

Supreme Court President Defines Contacts With U.S. Embassy

PY0311152793 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 27 Oct 93 p A2

[Text] Sucre, 26 Oct (ANF)—The "numerous" telephone contacts maintained by Supreme Court President Edgar Oblitas Fernandez with the U.S. Embassy were done so with with due respect for sovereignty, their purpose being to discuss affairs of institutional cooperation.

This was stressed today by Oblitas in a public denial refuting the accusations of that embassy, which has accused the magistrate of allegedly having offered his cooperation in exchange for "unconditional support."

Oblitas reacted heatedly to a U.S. Embassy communique, making it clear that the Supreme Court has currently in force a series of agreements with U.S. agencies that refer to the modernization and strengthening of the judicial branch.

"It is no surprise that the president has maintained numerous telephone contacts with the U.S. Embassy. These calls were made exclusively to discuss this topic (that of cooperation), the magistrate emphasized. [no closing quotation marks as published]

The Supreme Court president, who is facing charges of alleged corruption together with Supreme Court Vice President Ernesto Poppe Subieta, also warned "that recent events reveal the true intentions of the program."

Oblitas has accused the U.S. Embassy of interfering in the country's internal affairs, and he believes that this embassy participated directly in the charges of alleged extortion that have been made against him in the controversial case of the Nicaraguan Ibarra Rojas.

In his explanation, Oblitas indicates that the charges that have now been made public by the U.S. Embassy will be used in his defense during the trial, "because they will prove that I was concerned about the modernization of the judicial branch."

Regarding a meeting with [Supreme Court Justice Luis Adolfo] Siles Salinas and an embassy representative, in which the Ibarra Rojas extortion case was allegedly discussed, Oblitas said that "he will take up each topic one at a time in defending himself before the chambers of Congress."

Military Chiefs 'Cautiously' Note U.S. 'Lack of Respect'

PY0311133993 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 27 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] La Paz, 26 Oct (LOS TIEMPOS & ANF)—High-ranking members of the Armed Forces are cautiously and apprehensively observing the U.S. intervention in the latest political events, which have derived from the charges of corruption within the Supreme Court that have generated a wave of reaction of diverse nature throughout the country.

In this respect, Air Force Brigadier Fernando Sanjines Yanez, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has stated that "at the present time it not opportune or appropriate to give an opinion on a scandal that for the time being has not been fully cleared up." Moreover, he indicated that the military sector will make known its position as soon as the judicial procedure against some of the members of the Supreme Court, which has been called for by the executive branch, "begins to take its course in Congress."

Sanjines also indicated that the events that have emerged during the past few days within one of the branches of the state "are a clear and concrete example of the significant political changes that the country is experiencing."

Army Commander in Chief General Reynaldo Caceres Quiroga, who was even more reserved than the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, limited himself to indicating that "I cannot give an opinion on this problem of corruption in the Supreme Court," but he did express his surprise regarding the reports that the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia had presumably participated in the events.

Referring to this meddling, Caceres maintained that "it could be considered legal if the pertinent authorities had authorized the foreign participation, but if this was not the case, then the actions by U.S. officials in internal

problems that are within the exclusive competence of Bolivians could be considered an attack against national dignity and a violation of Bolivia's sovereignty."

Consulted by ANF, several high-ranking military chiefs expressed "their discontent and internal unrest" because of the "recent interference and lack of respect for Bolivian sovereignty" by the U.S. Embassy, within the framework of the alleged charge of corruption that is affecting the image of the Supreme Court.

When consulted on this, Sanjines Yanez told this newspaper that the Armed Forces will make known its institutional stance as soon as the matter has been cleared up at all levels. Caceres Quiroga also indicated that concern cannot be expressed over an affair that is under way, and which has not yet been judged in accordance with the nation's judicial rules and regulations.

Asked whether he thought "that it was correct for the U.S. Embassy to act in that way against a branch of the Bolivian state," he answered: "I cannot give an opinion because it is an affair that comes within the competence of the government, and it has nothing to do with the Army."

Moreover, he indicated that if the investigation into alleged corruption within the Supreme Court establishes that there was direct participation by the U.S. Embassy, then it can be considered an action against national sovereignty.

Industrialist Supports Charges Against Former Justice

PY0411003893 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 21 Oct 93 p A8

[Text] La Paz—Industrialist Justo Chamas confirmed reports made before the Chamber of Deputies Constitution, Justice, and Judicial Police Committee saying that he was the victim of a $100,000 extortion attempt by former Justice Hugo Galindo Decker and current Supreme Court Justice Hugo Dellien Barba.

When the news of an alleged case of corruption involving Supreme Court President Edgar Oblitas Fernandez was known, Chamas issued "a sworn declaration" referring to the request filed at the national Congress in April seeking to precisely establish the responsibility of justices in "an attempt to extract $100,000 in extortion money from me in exchange for the return of a Supreme Court decision that had been sequestered and replaced with an illegitimate document."

Chamas stressed that during the trial seeking to establish responsibilities that opened in Congress he will prove that "Hugo Galindo Decker was never approached by me or anyone sent by me with an alleged bribe to obtain a decision ordering the Bolivian Central Bank to return $2.004 million."

Chamas said: "Galindo Decker has assumed the crazy attitude of presuming that he will be able to influence the result of the trial, seeking to establish responsibilities by trying to confuse the issues, or by bending the law to favor fellow Justice Hugo Dellien Barba, who is facing charges of sequestering and replacing a Supreme Court decision that can never be changed or revised."

Correction to Military 'Annoyance' Over Economic Issues

PY0211115393

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Military 'Annoyance' Expressed on Attention Given Budget Requirements," published in the 2 November Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 46: Column one, make subslug read ...[All figures as published]... (providing subslug)

Brazil

Franco 'Not Aware' of Cardoso's 'Power Nucleus' Plan

PY0311130593 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] President Itamar Franco is not aware of Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso's project to create a power nucleus to face the crisis in the country. According to presidential spokesman Francisco Baker, the proposal is not under consideration by President Itamar Franco.

According to the finance minister's proposal, a power nucleus made up of ministers in the economic area and in the strategic area would be created to face the political crisis.

President Franco also denied through his press adviser that Justice Mauro Durante will replace Civil Household Chief Henrique Hargreaves, who had resigned.

Resende Admits 'Stalemate' in Foreign Debt Negotiations

PY0311160993 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Nov 93 Section 1 p 4

[Text] Central Bank President Pedro Malan and foreign debt negotiator Andre Lara Resende will try to overcome the stalemate in negotiations over the rescheduling of Brazilian external debt caused by the Dart family—a U.S. industrial group—in meetings to be held in New York on 3 November. The Darts, who are Brazil's fourth largest creditors, have refused to accept the terms of the agreement. The Brazilian Government is seeking the support of the creditors' advisory committee to convince the Darts.

Brazil owes the Darts $1.4 billion, which represents 4 percent of its external debt as established in the agreement ($35 billion). The Darts are relentless in their demand that Brazil's debt with them be swapped for capitalization bonds, which have a 20-year maturity and

bear market interest rates, whereas the other creditors have agreed to swapping at least 35 percent of their papers for discount bonds having a 30-year maturity, and to reducing Brazil's external debt.

Resende concedes that negotiations with the Darts have bogged down, and that if the family were to decide to remain out of the agreement things would become more difficult in reaching a debt rescheduling agreement.

Survey Shows Low Popularity for President Franco

PY0311211093

[Editorial Report] Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese on 2 November publishes on page A4 two articles by Ana Maria Tahan on a poll conducted by InformEstado and Fato Pesquisa e Jornalismo between 6 and 15 October. All figures are as published.

In a 250-word article, Tahan notes that only 3 percent of the population believe President Itamar Franco deserves a rating of 10 on a scale of one to 10; 28 percent of those questioned think Franco deserves between six and 10; 31 percent give him four or five; and 42 percent give him between three and zero.

The poll shows that 47 percent rate personal qualities—such as a clean past, experience, education, and independence—as the factor that will most affect their choice for the next president, while only 28 percent think the candidate's program is most important. The state where the candidate comes from or the party supporting him is not relevant.

In a second 250-word article, Tahan outlines the answers to a question on who was the best president since Getulio Vargas. The results give Jose Sarney 22 percent; Getulio Vargas, 20 percent; Juscelino Kubitschek, 14 percent; Joao Figueiredo, 8 percent; Tancredo Neves, 6 percent; Janio Quadros, 5 percent; Franco, 3 percent; and Castelo Branco, 2 percent.

* President Franco's Daily Agenda Scorned

* Contrasted With Cardoso

94SM0055A Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Oct 93 p 4

[Article by Amauri Teixeira: "President With a Vice President's Agenda"]

[Text] Brasilia—Although he still has 15 months remaining before handing the presidential sash over to his successor, President Itamar Franco is following an agenda befitting the closing days of one's administration. Over the past 10 days, the list of the president's audiences has included a group of debutantes (the daughters of Army officers), soccer hero Pele, an amateur soccer team from Itu that had represented Brazil in a tournament in the United States, and a committee of the physically handicapped. Meanwhile, Congress was getting excited over the decision on constitutional revision and the direction that the country itself should be taking.

Itamar's agenda, growing slimmer all the time, has been filled with working meetings with palace ministers (those with offices in Planalto Palace), ceremonial audiences, and meetings with ministers of state. In September, Itamar went two weeks in a row without receiving a single state governor in his office. After meeting with Maranhao Governor Edison Lobao on the 9th, the president did not meet with another governor until the 24th, when he granted an audience to Vilson Kleinubing of Santa Catarina.

At his social meetings, visitors have even complained of their host's lack of interest. The 32 debutantes who met with the president last week left the palace frustrated by Itamar's reported lack of attention to them.

"The president was cold, curt, and very fast. He should have spent more time with us," said Ana Christina Moennich, 15, who was dejected following the meeting with the president.

The president's unappealing agenda is criticized even by his subordinates in Planalto Palace.

"It is ridiculous for the president to keep wasting time with meetings of this kind. No one at the palace receives mayors from the interior. So why does the president have to?" complained one adviser.

The agenda, which is the responsibility of Mauro Durante, secretary general of the Presidency, and special adviser Ruth Hargreaves, stands in contrast to the pace of work by Minister of Finance Fernando Henrique Cardoso. Before traveling to the United States to handle the renegotiation of Brazil's foreign debt, Fernando Henrique followed an agenda crammed with important appointments.

On Thursday the 23d, the minister met in his office with five congressmen and the presidents of INAMPS [National Institute for Social Security Medical Assistance], Copersucar [Sao Paulo Cooperative of Sugar and Alcohol Producers], and Sunab [National Supply Superintendency]. His agenda was even fuller the day before that, when he met with the president and chairman of Eximbank [Export-Import Bank of the United States]; Rio Grande do Sul Secretary of Agriculture Carlos Cardinal; representatives of the Brazilian Association of State Banks; and Indian Minister of External Affairs Salman Khurshaid. On those same days, Itamar did not meet with a single congressman; instead, he received the debutantes, direct ministers and advisers, and the president of the CNBB [National Conference of Brazilian Bishops], Bishop Luciano Mendes de Almeida, who was accompanied by Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns.

Aloof from the debate on the right time to revise the Constitution, the president was at Planalto Palace last Wednesday—while the National Congress was meeting

to talk about when constitutional revision should begin—meeting with soccer players from Itu, Sao Paulo, who had won in the United States in July, and accepting from them the soccer Minicup for players under 17 years of age (a tournament held to promote next year's World Cup play-offs).

As part of his scheduled appointments for yesterday, Itamar met with three ministers of state and four direct advisers with whom he meets every day: the chiefs of the Civilian and Military Households of the Presidency, the secretary general of the Presidency, and his diplomatic adviser, Vera Pedroso. Even though he had devoted most of the day to his immediate advisers, the last item on the agenda was "internal business."

Itamar, who has already said that he regrets not having sent Congress a message moving the date of the presidential election up to this year, has also shortened his working day. On Monday, he did not go to Planalto Palace in the morning. On the other days, the president always arrives around 1100, usually has lunch at home, and then leaves Planalto Palace before 2000.

* Agenda No Longer Released

94SM0055B Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Oct 93 p 5

[Article: "Itamar Adopts Secret Agenda"]

[Text] Brasilia—Publication of President Itamar Franco's official agenda, which had been made public daily since his administration began a year ago, ceased yesterday. The president ordered that publication of his agenda be suspended because he was irritated by a report published in O GLOBO on Sunday. That report showed that even though he still has 15 months remaining before he leaves office, Itamar is following a routine befitting the end of an administration, with the hours in his work agenda usually being filled by direct advisers and ceremonial audiences.

"The agenda will no longer be distributed owing to the distortions that have occurred. The agenda does not reflect the routine of activities exactly and gives a false impression of what the president does," said Planalto Palace's press adviser, Francisco Baker.

As of yesterday, Itamar's most important appointments will be announced by the Press Office of the Presidency to reporters accredited to Planalto Palace. Yesterday Itamar again spent a day with few official appointments. He arrived at Planalto Palace at 1000, had lunch at Alvorada Palace, as he does every day, and occupied himself solely with internal business during the morning hours. That afternoon, according to Baker, he had meetings with Barbosa Lima Sobrinho, president of the Brazilian Press Association (ABI); Senator Pedro Simon (PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party]-Rio Grande do Sul), PMDB President Luiz Henrique, and other party leaders.

In suspending publication of his agenda, Itamar has revived a measure adopted by former President Fernando Collor during the last days of his administration. With his political image eroded by the CPI [congressional investigating commission] looking into the P.C. Farias scandal, Collor stopped accepting requests for audiences and decided that his work routine would no longer be reported to the press.

Chile

Von Weizsaecker Continues Visit; German Aid To Be Reduced

Meets With Aylwin

PY0311131793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2257 GMT 2 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Santiago, 2 Nov (EFE)—Chilean President Patricio Aylwin and German President Richard von Weizsaecker held a two-hour meeting today within the framework of the German president's first day of official activities scheduled for his visit to Chile.

After the meeting, which was held at the presidential La Moneda Palace, Weizsaecker merely said that he had held "a very friendly and cordial talk" with his Chilean counterpart, and refused to respond to other questions, pointing out that he would hold a news conference in Santiago on 4 November.

Sergio Molina, the Chilean planning and cooperation minister, who participated in part of the meeting, reported that appreciation was expressed to Germany for its cooperation with Chile over the past three years. More than 46 percent of this cooperation, totalling $220 million, was allocated for social projects.

Molina also explained that these contributions will be reduced within the next few years because Germany considers that Chile has achieved such a degree of development that these funds will be earmarked for less developed countries. Molina said that the technical contribution will at any rate remain effective, and that a joint Chilean-German commission is studying the projects that will remain in effect. [passage omitted]

Loan Agreements Signed

PY0311131393 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Excerpts] The University of Chile's Faculty of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences will be the most sophisticated one on our continent, and hospitals in very poor areas will be refurbished. These two achievements are included in agreements between the governments of Chile and Germany that have been signed at the Foreign Ministry.

The first agreement will allow the Faculty of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences to become an outstanding

center at a Latin American level, as it will be fully equipped through a soft loan from the German Government.

The German contribution involves a loan of 15.9 million German marks [DM] with a 30 year repayment period, a 10 year grace period, and a 2 percent interest rate. [passage omitted]

Acting Finance Minister Jorge Rodriguez signed the agreements for Chile, while Werner Franck, director general of the the Reconstruction Financing Institute, signed for Germany.

The German contributions for refurbishing hospitals total DM80 million, and will benefit small- and medium-sized hospitals in poor rural areas. [passage omitted]

Pinochet Leaves for Brazil To Attend Army Meeting

PY0411014093 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] General Augusto Pinochet left at noon today for Brazil to attend the 20th Conference of Armies of the Americas, CEA-93. The military conference that will be attended by 23 countries is made up of the continent's Army commanders. Its purpose is to strengthen links to watch over the security and integrity of the region in the best possible manner.

Poll Indicates Frei Remains Leading Presidential Candidate

PY0311161393

[Editorial Report] Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish on 14 October publishes on page C2 a 900-word unattributed article on the results of the latest public opinion poll conducted among 1,400 residents from 49 cities by the Center for Contemporary Reality Studies, CERC, between 24 September and 10 October.

The public opinion survey showed that 51.7 percent of those polled would vote for Senator Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle if presidential elections were to be held next Sunday, 15.3 percent would choose Senator Arturo Alessandri Besa, while 24.3 percent remain undecided about whom to vote for. With regard to other presidential candidates, Eugenio Pizarro, candidate for the Antireelection Democratic Integration Movement and the Communist Party, received 2.9 percent of the vote; Manfred Max-Neef, an independent candidate supported by the United Popular Action Movement-Workers and Peasants Faction and ecologist groups, obtained 2.7 percent; the independent Jose Pinera got 2.3 percent; and the Humanist-Green Party candidate Cristian Reitze received 0.7 percent.

The article reports that in making these results public CERC Director Marta Lagos commented that the margin of error of the sample was 2.2 percent. Lagos also ruled out the possibility of there being a runoff election.

The article notes that another question asked by pollsters was what opinion people had of presidential candidates as compared with the incumbent president and General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte. Of the 1,400 people polled 75 percent have a favorable opinion of Frei, 45 percent have a favorable impression of Alessandri, while 73 percent approved of President Patricio Aylwin. The survey also revealed that 47 percent disapprove of Gen. Pinochet.

The article further reports that of those surveyed 80.8 percent believe that Frei will win at the polls, while 7.4 percent think Alessandri will win the election. The article notes that the figures obtained by the other candidates are negligible.

* Government, Chamber Reach Agreement on Priority Bills

94SM0040A Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 22 Sep 93 pp C1, C6

[Text] Valparaiso—The Government and the Chamber of Deputies have reached agreement on criteria for the Chief Executive to use in setting priorities for submitting bills, so as not to create conflict in the Chamber and committee sessions agendas.

Another goal is to allow lawmakers to complete the legislative work and participate in their electoral campaigns.

To fulfill these objectives, the Government has agreed to classify six bills under debate in the Chamber of Deputies as "top priority," and another 25 initiatives as "priority," to receive preferential treatment in the current Extraordinary Legislative Session.

Chamber of Deputies President Jorge Molina said that criteria have been established for the Government to exercise its right to set priorities for bills under legislative debate in the Chamber, for which, he added, eight to 12 bills will receive top priority and others will receive priority, in order to facilitate their debate in committee.

He added that the idea is to not include too many initiatives, in consideration of the time constraints of the lawmakers, who must carry out their civic electoral campaign duties and also complete their legislative work by the end of their term.

Deputy Molina said that the Chief Executive has classified as top priority, meaning that the Chamber will have only 10 days to render a decision on them, the following bills:

The bill to modify the General Telecommunications Law on long-distance telephone services; the bill to modify article 27 of Law 16,468, involving naming Police Investigation School students to the rank of detective; the bill to modify law 18,450 to encourage private investment in irrigation and drainage projects; the Chile National Radio bill; the bill granting benefits to nonmedical personnel of the emergency health services; and the bill setting staffing plans for the administrative services of

the regional governments. Initial deliberations on the bill modifying the General Telecommunications Law on domestic and international long-distance telephone service have been completed. It was approved by the Public Works Committee and is now being debated in the Finance Committee.

The bill naming Police Investigation School students to the rank of detective completed its first constitutional deliberation and was approved by the Defense Committee, with no changes since leaving the Executive office. It involves giving the President of the Republic the right to name second-year students enrolled in the aforementioned school to the rank of detective. Its purpose is to increase the ranks of police personnel by 270.

The bill modifying Decree 258 of 1974 on Chile National Radio is completing its first constitutional debate and has figured on the agenda for several months. Now it is again on the current agenda and should be addressed by the Senate next week.

The bill granting benefits to nonmedical personnel at the emergency health services is completing its first constitutional debate. It has been approved by the Health and Finance Committees, and the latter introduced modifications when it received instructions from the Executive Branch to increase the maternal- and patient-care benefits from 9,000 to 12,000 pesos.

Another bill to which the Government will assign top priority is the one setting staffing plans for the administrative services of the regional governments. It was approved by the Interior Government Committee, after a second draft.

The bill modifying Law 18,450, to encourage private investment in irrigation and drainage projects is completing its first constitutional debate and has been approved by the Agriculture Committee.

Also set for "immediate discussion" will be the bill authorizing the Central Bank of Chile to mint silver coins commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Chilean Mint. The Chamber should discuss it next week.

Priority

For 24 bills under debate in the Chamber of Deputies, the Government will assign a classification of priority (30 days to be approved), to speed up their deliberation in Committee. They are:

The Concertacion plan to approve the air transport agreement signed between Chile and New Zealand; building on beach land; the bill modifying the Penal Code, the Penal Procedure Code, and other legal provisions in areas involving the crime of rape; the bill setting standards for nonteaching personnel in municipal educational establishments; the bill modifying the Law of Municipal Revenues.

Also considered priority will be the bill authorizing the establishment of warehouses for duty-free sales; the bill modifying the plan for the Chilean Police; the bill changing the basis for calculating maternal-care benefits; the bill modifying the General Law for Banks and other legal entities and providing a new treatment of subordinated bank debt to the Central Bank of Chile; the bill allowing the Roadways Directorate to acquire signalling equipment and deliver it gratis to corporations domiciled in regions VIII, IX and X; the bill setting special standards for property transfer under agrarian reform; the Environmental Base Law; full social integration of handicapped persons; early retirement for laborers involved in heavy work; the bill extending the period for resolving cases involving number 4 of article 2 of law 19,123; the bill extending the validity of the fixed tariffs for telecommunications companies.

Priority classification is also assigned to the bill on geothermal energy concessions; the bill adding a second paragraph to article 5 and substituting the second paragraph in letter c) of article 7 of DFL 22 of 1981 of the Education Ministry (foreign scholarships); the bill permitting foreign nationals from neighboring countries to acquire real estate in border areas; the bill replacing the staffing plans of the subsecretariats reporting to the Transport Ministry; a memorial monument in honor of the victims of human rights violations; child abuse; the bill setting and modifying previsional standards on specific trial procedures (Mixed Committee Report); the bill modifying General Telecommunications Law 18,168 (Mixed Committee).

Situation in the Senate

It was learned yesterday that in the Senate, meanwhile, the criteria for urgency with which the Executive will prioritize its principal bills will be disclosed next week.

"Top priority" (10 days) will again be assigned to constitutional reform reducing the presidential term, and "priority" (30 days) to some 30 pending initiatives.

The High Chamber will reinitiate its session on Tuesday, 5 October, and should then vote on the reform to reduce the presidential term, a bill that is the Government's main priority.

Of equal importance to the Executive Branch are the initiatives comprising the "package" of bills reforming the Judicial Branch, and capital market reform.

It is worth noting that the total number of bills initiated in the Presidential Message, and which are pending in the various Senate committees, is 60, but not all have been designated priority.

It was reported yesterday that to set the periods for when the bills pending in the Senate must be put up for a vote, the heads of the parliamentary committees of the Concertacion will have to meet with Minister General Secretary of the Presidency Edgardo Boeninger. That will

occur next week, given that for now most of the lawmakers are in their respective regions.

Even though until yesterday no information was known of the number of bills to be considered urgent, it was known that all those initiatives that already had been considered urgent before the conclusion of the ordinary legislative session must necessarily have their status renewed.

Necessarily qualifying for top priority (10 days) will be the constitutional reform modifying the term length of the President of the Republic. This was already fully discussed in two sessions and a vote was not taken for lack of a quorum, but it was agreed that this would occur when the sessions were again renewed in October.

Also necessarily classified as priority (30 days) will be the new Isapre [Institute of Public Health and Preventive Medicine] law; the bill dictating standards for accreditation and supervision of entities with official certification of horticultural products exported to European communities and other States; the Treaty of extradition and legal assistance in penal matters, signed between Chile and Spain; the bill modifying the section of the Civil Code addressing common property in a marriage; the bill repressing disorder and acts of violence in stadiums and other sports centers; and the bill sanctioning illegal trafficking in hallucinogens and psychotropic substances.

The same priority classification will be assigned to the bills comprising the "package" of initiatives on Judicial Branch reform, which is still being debated in the Senate; the bill creating the Judicial School; the bill addressing the composition, organization, and attributes of the Supreme Court, and modifying recourse to complaint and appeal; the bill creating the National Legal Assistance Service; the bill establishing the Public Ministry's Constitutional Organic Law; and the bill addressing arbitration judges and arbitration procedure. Two other bills have already completed their first debates in the Senate and are pending in the Chamber of Deputies.

Within 30 days, moreover, they must approve the consumer rights bill; capital markets reform; the bill setting standards for mutual funds for university endowments, and the bill setting standards for personnel of the Legal Assistance Corporations, as well as another series of Concertacion bills on international agreements that have been signed, and which involve a diverse body of legislation.

Colombia

Official Terms U.S. Drug Policy Changes 'Very Positive'

PA0411021293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1957 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 3 Nov (NOTIMEX)— Gabriel De Vega, director of the Colombian National Drug Directorate, termed the announced changes in U.S. policy to combat drug trafficking "very positive." At a news conference, the Colombian official said the United States had finally admitted making errors in its procedures to keep drugs out of the country and admitted the accomplishments of Colombian authorities in that field.

On 21 October, President Bill Clinton's administration made an important turn in its drug policy and now gives priority to the health problem that prompts drug use instead of the use of repression to avoid drug use. The new project includes the strengthening of legal institutions in drug-producing countries to control illegal drug-trafficking activities more effectively.

"In Colombia, we have had more success in seizing drugs than the U.S. Police and Immigration staff together, De Vega stated. He added that the need to break the circles of organizations that promote the use of drugs in the United States was highlighted at the recent meeting with U.S. Drug Coordinator Lee Brown. Also, the top official announced a "frontal assault" to contribute to the solution of the world's scourge.

According to information from international organizations, Colombia is the main cocaine trafficker in Latin America and one of the most important producers of heroin and marijuana.

* Decisions in Porras, Ruiz Cases Commended

94SM0048A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Sep 93 p 4A

[Editorial: "Two Positive Steps"]

[Text] The decision of the ethical supervisor of Ernesto Samper's campaign to separate legislators Marin, Gechem, and Turbay Cotes from that campaign, together with the Council of State decision to deprive Chamber member Jairo Ruiz Medina of his congressional seat are two steps—different but complementary—taken along the path toward the gradual purification of political practices.

They are separate steps, because one came from within Samper's presidential campaign, wherein a timely decision was made to adopt a code of ethics so as to guarantee the honesty and rectitude of the people surrounding the liberal precandidate. Another of its purposes was to undertake the task of controlling the origins and honest handling of the campaign funds and ensuring ethical conduct on the part of those working with Dr. Samper Pizano. The decision to divest Ruiz of his status as a representative, on the other hand, was the result of a decision handed down by the highest Court of Administrative Law, which determined that there had been a clear violation of the disqualification rules.

The two steps are complementary because they both work toward the moralization of political practices, the activities of those who serve as representatives of the people in the Congress of the Republic in particular. The

judgment of the Council of State came after the Chamber of Representatives, in a praiseworthy decision adopted in plenary session, approved the report of its Ethics Commission on the conflict of interest involving Ruiz and referred it to the high court. The decision of the Chamber showed that the will for a moralization effort exists and should be viewed as a healthy desire for purification. In the case of congressmen Marin, Gechem, and Turbay Cote, who were present at the sadly notorious political meeting with Mr. Porras Ardila in Leticia, the decision to separate them from the Samper campaign strengthens the credibility of its code of ethics. Not only does it show that it is possible, but also that there is a duty, to establish certainty about the rest of the people affiliated with Samper. In fact, since the promulgation of the ethics code of the campaign, those congressmen about whom there have been the most questions have kept their distance from it. This seems to indicate that the code may be having a healthy preventive effect.

Finally, it would not be amiss to emphasize that ethical norms of this sort are designed to establish criteria that are beyond the scope of the law. Legally, there was no hindrance to attending the meeting in Leticia. Ethically, there was. But even so, an ethical supervisor cannot take the place of the judges of the Republic. The Penal Code is one thing, and political ethics is another.

In this last realm, then, two positive steps have been taken in response to the nation's desire for political moralization and the demands being made by those who aspire to leadership of the state or to representation of the will of the people in the Congress. But it is important that, parallel to the progress made along the path of purification, the public be made aware of the programs and proposals advanced by the various candidates for dealing with the multiple social, economic, and public order problems Colombia is experiencing today. Political ethics is a matter of prime importance, but it should not be the exclusive and exculpatory issue in the current electoral campaign.

* ECOPETROL Seeks Increased Foreign Investment

94SM0049C Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Sep 93 p 2B

[Article by Eduardo Garcia Martinez: "New Refinery Project Being Revived"]

[Text] Cartagena—The government is again thinking of a new refinery that would produce 100,000 barrels of gasoline per day. At present, about 33,000 barrels per day have to be imported.

This proposal was presented during the First Colombian-United Kingdom Energy Seminar being held in Cartagena de Indias. The proposal was made by Felix Betancourt, the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (ECOPETROL) director for corporate planning.

This executive said that the country has two refineries with a processing capacity of about 235,000 barrels per day, and three smaller ones with a total capacity of about 7,000 barrels per day. There is nonetheless a deficit that must be made up.

The participation of domestic or foreign private capital would be needed to implement the project.

The studies pertaining to a new refinery were definitively shelved two years ago. In those studies, it was stated that the fuel production industry would have to be located in Magdalena Medio, and that its approximate cost would be more than $1 billion.

According to the ECOPETROL, later assessments showed that the state petroleum sector could not carry out a project of this magnitude in a direct manner.

More Investment Needed

On the other hand, Colombia has opened up its portfolio of investment options in the petroleum sector, estimated at $10 billion, and has invited foreign organizations to participate enthusiastically.

Betancourt said that the ECOPETROL is currently appraising areas reserved for prospecting and direct production by the enterprise with a view to delimiting certain blocs with excellent potential. They would be offered in an international call for bids on contracts to be signed under the partnership system. The call for bids is to be ready prior to the end of the year.

With the new reserves in Cusiana and Cupiagua (2.5 billion barrels), the domestic production of crude oil will soon exceed a million barrels per day, while daily exports will reach a total of 700,000 barrels.

Where natural gas is concerned, the ECOPETROL representative said that it is necessary to build trunk and regional gas pipelines. The investment required is estimated at $900 million, of which $550 million must be invested prior to 1998.

The investment in domestic distribution networks will come to $660 million, and that in stations for supplying vehicles with compressed natural gas comes to $250 million. All of this capital must be private. The adaptation of and requirements for new industrial and domestic gas equipment will necessitate an investment of $1 billion.

Meanwhile, British Petroleum (BP) has announced that it feels confident about its investment in Colombia, and will, therefore, remain active in the country for many years.

Mike Heffner, its representative, said that BP has studied all of the risks (security, government continuity, bureaucracy, fiscal stability, and taxation) and finds them completely manageable. The company therefore feels comfortable with its current position and projects.

"Colombia is not paradise, but in my opinion," Heffner said, "it is a beautiful country, an enchanting place to live. And it is a country in which BP feels confident about its investments and the prospect of doing business here for many years to come."

[Box, p 2B]

Foreign Investment Hindered

Colombia represents the best choice in Latin America for foreign investments, but the continued presence of the guerrilla forces and the drug trafficking worries businessmen.

According to Tristan Garel Jones, a former minister of state in Great Britain, a number of companies in his country, which he declined to identify, have abstained from investing in Colombia because of their fear of the rebel groups and the violence generated by the drug cartels.

"I know of British businesses that want to invest in Colombia," he said, "but the guerrilla forces and the drug trafficking are factors discouraging them."

Garel Jones, who praised the recent visit paid to Great Britain by President Cesar Gaviria, said that Colombia offers the best economic prospects in terms of energy resources, and he noted that the experience of his country in the area of generating, managing, and distributing electrical energy could prove of great benefit to our country.

This official, who is attending the First Colombia-United Kingdom Energy Seminar in Cartagena, expressed the certainty that the best way of generating well-being through the energy sector is to continue to encourage the links with private business.

"The state should have a regulatory function, watching over and protecting the rights of the consumer and the citizens, but it should never become an omnipresent body," he warned.

Keith Morris, the ambassador of Great Britain to Colombia, said for his part that he is unaware of the alleged decision by English businessmen not to invest their capital in our country due to fear of the armed insurgents' movement and the drug trafficking.

He expressed the certainty that, on the contrary, there is increasing interest in his country in participating in projects in Colombia. He pointed out that representatives of at least 20 major companies in Great Britain are participating in the seminar being held at the International Convention Center in Cartagena de Indias.

* Ethics Commission Investigating 15 Senators

94SM0049A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Sep 93 p 7A

[Text] Fifteen senators are currently being investigated by the Ethics Commission of the Senate in connection with complaints pertaining to alleged peddling of influence, illicit earnings, and violations of the regulations governing disqualification and conflict of interest.

However, these investigations are in the evidential stage, and no reports, preliminary or otherwise, have as yet been submitted.

A list of the cases being investigated is set forth in an official Senate document to which EL TIEMPO has obtained access.

According to this document, charges have been filed with the commission involving legislators Alvaro Pava Camelo, Claudia Rodriguez de Castellanos, Pedro Bonet Locarno, Hernando Suarez Burgos, Aurelio Iragorri Hormaza, Carlos Martinez Simahan, Felix Salcedo Baldion, Jose Blackburn Cortes, Regina Betancourt de Liska, Tiberio Villarreal Ramos, Mario Laserna Pinzon, Alberto Montoya Puyana, Eduardo Pizano de Narvaez, and Jaime Vargas Suarez.

In addition to these cases, this body has submitted a request to a plenary session of the Senate for a definition by the Council of State of the decision on the installation of legislators Jose Ramon Navarro Mojica and Felix Salcedo Baldion.

The oldest file has to do with a complaint made against Jose Blackburn, a former president of the Senate, pertaining to possible violations of the regulations governing disqualification and conflict of interest, and alleged abuse of authority in the signing of a contract with the Central Mortgage Bank.

The complaint was received on 15 December 1992. Initially, Senator Fernando Botero Zea was appointed to serve as reporter. Later, Jorge Cristo Sahium was appointed, but neither of the two submitted a report.

A complaint against Aurelio Iragorri, Carlos Martinez, and Felix Salcedo alleging the irregular appointment of excessive personnel and contracting for literary works was filed in that same period.

The most recent complaints were received on 5 December, and pertain to Senators Mario Laserna and Eduardo Pizano. Laserna was accused of "alleged links of friendship or business relations involving Mr. Roberto Soto Prieto, at a time when the senator was the Colombian ambassador to the Austrian Government."

The complaint against Pizano alleges trafficking in influence in filling certain positions in the National Apprenticeship Service (SENA).

Ecuador

* President Sends Budget to Congress

94SM0056A Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 30 Sep 93 p 2 Section 1

[Text] Quito—The president of the Republic will send the pro forma budget for the 1994 fiscal year to the Congress today. The sum proposed comes to 6.1735 trillion sucres, because in accordance with the provisions of Article 2 of the Law on Public Sector Budgets, the pro forma budget submitted must cover all three government branches—legislative, judicial, and executive; the affiliated bodies; the special programs; the Supreme Electoral Board, and the Court of Constitutional Guarantees.

Slowing Inflation

The main goal will continue to be to reduce the inflationary indices to the level of 15 percent by December of 1994, and to generate sustained overall economic growth that will allow the creation of stable sources of jobs.

Because the Law on Public Sector Budgets and the regulations governing it will be in full effect in 1994, the structure of the central government's pro forma budget differs from that in preceding years. This is because the payments on bilateral and multilateral foreign credit, the resources obtained from the sale of assets, donations, and the income of the affiliated bodies themselves are all included. As a result, it is not easy to compare the pro forma budget for 1994 with that for 1993.

In order to establish the level of growth, it is necessary to take out the income that was not included up until 1993, and to analyze the increases in the categories that now constitute the state budget. When this has been done, the current income for 1994 (5.366 trillion) shows an increase of 24 percent over the codified budget as of 30 June 1993, in which the figure for current income was 4.0627 trillion. In real terms, the increase came to only 3.3 percent, the same percentage seen for the levels established in the macroeconomic program of the national government.

The Budget Projection

According to the Ministry of Finance, the projection for the pro forma budget was based on the economic parameters provided by the Central Bank of Ecuador, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1—Economic Parameters for 1994

	1993	1994
GDP [gross domestic product] at current prices (in trillions of sucres)	26.1	32.26
Real increase in GDP	2.2 percent	3.0 percent
Real increase in GDP, excluding oil	1.9 percent	2.7 percent
Nominal increase in GDP	39.0 percent	23.6 percent
Deflation rate for the GDP	36.0 percent	20.0 percent
Annual rate of inflation (to December in percentage)	30.0 percent	15.4 percent
Average Annual Rate of Exchange		
Public exports	1.8424	1.95
Public imports	2.0	2.0
Exports of Crude Oil		
Volume (in millions of barrels)	79.6	86.7
Value (in billions of dollars)	1.2220	1.3005
Exports of Byproducts		
Volume (in millions of barrels)	8.1	6.1
Value (in millions of dollars)	84.9	73.8
Average crude oil price*	15.4	15.0
Average price for byproducts*	11.7	12.1
Total exports (FOB)**	2.9095	3.0245
Total imports (CIF)**	2.1500	2.4740

*=Dollars per barrel; **=in billions of dollars.

Income

The total amount of this pro forma budget is equal to 19.1 percent of the GDP. It will be financed to the extent of 81.6 percent out of current income; 0.7 percent from transfers; 13.5 percent from financing accounts; 1.5 percent from capital income; and the remaining 2.7 percent from the affiliated bodies' own funds, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2—Summary of Budget Income (in trillions of sucres)

			Percentage of the GDP	
Source	**1993**	**1994**	**1993**	**1994**
Total	4.3859	6.1735	16.8	19.1
Current income	4.0627	5.0366	15.57	15.61
Traditional	1.9752	2.6941	7.57	8.35
Oil	2.0874	2.3425	8.0	7.26
Transfers	.0450	.0402	.17	.12
Financing accounts	.0096	.8364	.04	2.59
Bilateral foreign credit	—	.2081	—	.65
Multilateral foreign credit	—	.3408	—	1.06
Domestic public credit	.0096	.2875	.04	.89

Expenditures

Where the structure of expenditures is concerned, a change in composition can be seen because of its economic nature, giving priority to investment and capital expenditures, for which 39.7 percent of all the resources has been allocated, while the remaining 60.3 percent has been allocated for current expenditures. This distribution demonstrates the decision made by the national government to use public resources in accordance with the country's economic development needs.

Of the pro forma budget total for 1994, 25.3 percent has been allocated for servicing the public debt.

The projection for 1994 payments to service the public debt was drafted on a conservative basis with a view to liberating resources for categories with greater priority in terms of national development, and taking the imminent renegotiation of the debt with the international financial bodies into account.

Table 3—Public Debt Service (in trillions of sucres)

Source	1994	Percentage	Percentage of the GDP
Total	1.5634	100	4.85
Domestic	.4164	26.6	1.29
Interest	.2997	19.2	0.93
Amortization	.1167	7.5	0.36
Foreign	1.1470	73.4	3.056
Interest	.5830	37.3	1.81
Amortization	.5640	36.1	1.75

Investments

Finally, the allocation for expenditures on public investment comes to 1.6492 trillion sucres, which is equivalent to 5.1 percent of the GDP and to 26.7 percent of the expenditures total. Of the amount mentioned, 680.1 billion sucres (41.2 percent) has been allocated to the Annual Public Investment Program drafted by the CONADE [National Council for Development].

It is the expenditures in this category, public works in particular, that have increased most substantially as a result of the policy of redirecting expenditures toward productive ends. This means that for the first time in recent years, it has been possible to overcome the inertia regarding investment expenditures that was a residual product of the central government budget.

It should be noted that the investment expenditure included in the central government budget for 1994 comes to 510.2 billion sucres (30.9 percent), and it is earmarked for the development of the highway infrastructure. The sum of 461.1 billion sucres (28.4 percent) has been allocated for the development of the agricultural infrastructure, while 25.7 percent has been allocated for the social infrastructure, according to the information provided by the Ministry of Finance.

Paraguay

Union Leader Criticizes U.S. Ambassador's Comments

PY0311214393 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 3 Nov 93 p 25

[Excerpt] Ramon Vera Venialgo, vice president of the United Workers Trade Union Federation [CUT] said: "U.S. Ambassador Glassman is not authorized to categorically assert that Paraguay will not be sanctioned."

"This is the responsibility of other organizations," said Vera, indicating that CUT will submit a report on 17 November to the "appropriate institutions."

Regarding the exclusion of Paraguay from among the countries that "do not respect labor laws" in the report submitted by the AFL-CIO to the SGP [General Preference System], Vera said one of the instruments for the exclusion was the enforcement of the new Labor Code.

Vera added: "The code is an element in the accusations made by CUT to the AFL-CIO in the United States. It includes the violations of some guarantees of union freedom by the business sector and even by labor administrative officials in the past." [passage omitted]

Minister Reaffirms No Diplomatic Relations With Cuba

PY0311223793 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 3 Nov 93 p 24

[Text] Paraguay will not start any official diplomatic rapprochement with Cuba with the current political situation of Fidel Castro's government. This statement was made by Foreign Minister Diogenes Martinez during a news conference in his office.

The minister said: "Neither human rights nor the democratic political system are respected in Cuba. Consequently, under such conditions we cannot maintain diplomatic relations."

"Like the previous administration, the government of engineer Wasmosy believes this position (Cuba's political situation) has not changed," Martinez reiterated.

Asked about a U.S. Government request that Paraguay not vote in the United Nations on a possible condemnation of the 30-year-old economic embargo the United States has imposed on Cuba, Martinez replied that he will transmit the U.S. request to President Juan Carlos Wasmosy. "He is responsible for Paraguayan foreign policy," Martinez emphasized.

When told that last year our country abstained from voting when the subject was raised at the United Nations, the minister explained that on that occasion the Paraguayan representative did not attend the session, for which reason our country did not vote on the issue.

Suggestion or Request

Asked whether U.S. Ambassador to Paraguay Jon Glassman made a suggestion or request on the subject, Martinez replied by saying: "No foreign government has the right to make suggestions for Paraguayan foreign policy."

"Our country made a great effort to achieve internal democracy, and it is up to us to conquer democracy and

win respect for each government's independence within the international community," the minister said.

"I do not agree with suggestions from any state, no matter how powerful," the foreign minister concluded.

Peru

Fujimori Reiterates New Constitution Approval Undeniable

PA0311132293 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Nov 93

[From the "Global TV News" newscast]

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has reiterated that the approval of the new Constitution cannot be denied. He added that the reasons for the adverse results would be reviewed and the necessary corrections would be made. Even though the president said the number of yes votes was lower than expected, he said that after three years in government, receiving the support of 53 percent of the country's voters is extraordinary.

In this regard, he said the figure is encouraging, bearing in mind that a distortion campaign had been implemented, which he said has included lies, such as the elimination of free education. We are going to prove them wrong in the next few months by emphasizing more the modernization of the country's school system, the president said.

Official Outlines 1994 Spending To Fight Drugs, Terrorism

PY0311210193 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 20 Oct 93 p A2

[Text] The Interior Ministry has appropriated 100 million soles of the ministry's 1994 budget for the struggle against terrorism and only 23 million soles for the struggle against drug trafficking.

This information was disclosed by Interior Minister Juan Briones Davila during a briefing before the CCD [Democratic Constituent Congress] Budget Committee to justify the amount appropriated to his ministry in the budget bill under debate.

Minister Briones also reported that within the moralization process in the police forces the ministry has dismissed 4,000 policemen for disciplinary reasons.

Briones explained to the congressional committee details of how the 1.367 billion soles in the ministry's budget included in the budget bill will be appropriated. He said 100 million soles will be appropriated for the antisubversive struggle, 23 million soles to fight drug trafficking, 276 million soles for people's security, and 966 million soles for salaries and pension for active-duty and retired police personnel.

He also explained that although 68 percent of the budget is for salaries, this figure does not consider any salary increase, and that this possibility will always depend on the fiscal funds available and increased tax collection by the government.

Minister Briones demanded a substantial increase in the ministry's budget from the congressional committee because, he said, it will not be able to cover its needs, estimated by its experts in 2.551 billion soles.

Uruguay

Interior Minister Resigns To Join Electoral Campaign

PY0411011193 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] Dr. Raul Iturria will take over as interior minister next week. He will replace Dr. Juan Andres Ramirez, who resigned in order to return to his seat in the Senate. Ramirez also will become fully engaged in political activities with a view toward the upcoming general elections.

It is not yet known who will replace Interior Under Secretary Carlos Moreira, who also will resign in order to engage in political activities.

President Luis Alberto Lacalle today met Iturria and Ramirez, with whom he addressed various issues of the portfolio. After the meeting, Iturria said:

[Begin recording] I will work with devotion to the ministry's objectives, that is, I will do my best to fulfill them. I cannot give any further details because I am not familiar with either personnel resources—which are essential—or the ministry itself. Once I become familiar with it I will give some guidelines, and based on team work we will surely be able to design actions, but always as a continuation of the fine work done by Dr. Juan Andres Ramirez. That is the idea. The details will come in the future as we become familiar with the resources we have and with the main problems affecting the portfolio. [end recording]

Brazilian Workers Party Leader Arrives, Meets President

PY0411013493 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Nov 93

[Text] With the objectives of promoting relations with our country—in case he is elected president of Brazil—and of talking about the creation of a regional center with the Broad Front, Luiz Inacio da Silva, also known as Lula, and his entourage arrived at exactly 1302 in our country.

Lula, a leader of the Workers Party—a very powerful Brazilian leftist party—met today with President Luis Alberto Lacalle. The agenda included various items of

common interest. Lula said that if he wins the presidency, relations with Uruguay will be intensified.

[Begin Lula recording in Portuguese] The most important topic was Mercosur [Common Market of the South]. We also analyzed Brazilian-Uruguayan relations because Brazil is a very important country in the continent. Because of its importance, Brazil cannot ignore the democratic nature of this international relationship, right? It was also the first time we met, and the time was very short because the president's agenda was busy and so was mine. I believe it was an initial contact, and I hope we will meet again in this process of integration in South America. [end recording]

Lula then was due to meet Julio Maria Sanguinetti. In this regard, Lula said:

[Begin recording] [unidentified reporter] What topics will you address with Sanguinetti?

[Lula] Look, there are many topics to be addressed. I believe that at all our meetings, we should become aware of the way in which people are considering the Mercosur issue. We have to debate how people see relations between Brazil and Uruguay, which are two important countries. We have to debate political matters and political prospects, right? [end recoding]

Guyana

Information Minister Resigns To Pursue Law Studies

FL0311215193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1454 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Report by Colin King]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 3 Nov, CANA—Information Minister Moses Nagamootoo has resigned, effective last Monday, to pursue full-time law studies at the University of Guyana, the office of President Cheddi Jagan announced Wednesday [3 November].

Nagamootoo, a veteran journalist who worked for years with the People's Progressive Party-aligned MIRROR newspaper and as correspondent of the then Soviet Novosti News Agency, has entered the second year of the L.LB. degree programme.

He completed the first year of the programme in 1987, but never proceeded to the second year, which was at the time not offered at the university here. Guyanese students until this year proceeded to the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, for the second year.

In a recent television interview here, Nagamootoo said he never sought a government scholarship to proceed to Cave Hill because of possible political connotations of a then-opposition activist being awarded a scholarship from the government.

Nagamootoo became senior minister of information after the October 5, 1992 election victory of the PPP/Civic here. No replacement has been named for Nagamootoo in the cabinet and he will retain his seat in the Guyana Parliament.

The law programme, which is from this year attracting fees of U.S.1,000 dollars per year at the university here, is also being pursued by two former government ministers, Winston Murray (trade and tourism) and Stella Odie Ali (home affairs). Current police commissioner, Laurie Lewis, is also enrolled in the law programme this year.

Sugar Production Recovers; Export Expansion Considered

FL0411002093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1956 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 3 Nov, CANA—Guyana's sugar production for the year is nearly 200,000 tons, with five of the eight sugar estates of the state-owned Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) surpassing their targets despite strikes.

Guysuco reported production at 196,500 tons, with the second crop figure at 105,500 tons. The corporation's three estates in the eastern county of Berbice surpassed their production targets. No figures were provided by Guysuco, which has been managed by Booker-Tate of Britain since October, 1990.

Guysuco is expected to at least equal its 250,000-ton target. Production has recovered significantly over the last two years, allowing Guysuco to fulfil its European Community 165,000-ton quota and its 15,000-ton U.S. quota. The state-owned entity is also supplying several Caribbean countries, including Barbados, Dominica, and St. Kitts. It is exploring export possibilities in Colombia and Portugal.

It reported 150 production hours being lost because of industrial action and 120 hours due to mechanical problems at some factories.

"The achievements in land preparation and replant augur well for the corporation's efforts to restore the crop cycle. The achievement would also aid Guysuco's determination to increase productivity by greater attention to agronomic practices," the corporation said.

Carter Center Likely To Monitor Local Elections

FL0311230893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1540 GMT 3 Nov 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 3 Nov, CANA—A team from the Atlanta-based electoral watchdog group, the Carter Centre of Emory University, is to visit Guyana by mid-November, an electoral official here reported.

Edward Hopkinson, recently endorsed as chairman of Guyana's elections commission, told CANA: "I am sure

they would want to have discussions with us and I do know that we would want to have discussions with them."

The Carter Centre played a crucial role in the holding of October 1992 general elections here. The largest observer team ever mounted by the centre and led by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter monitored Guyana's first general elections in seven years, which saw the People's Progressive Party/Civic defeat the People's National Congress (PNC). The centre is likely to help the elections commission prepare for the holding of Guyana's first municipal and local government elections in nearly 20 years. These elections are expected by June, 1994.

The commission's chairman said the Carter Centre had provided 40,000 U.S. dollars as part of a 110,000 U.S. dollar electoral aid package with the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP].The UNDP has given 70,000 U.S. dollars.

Hopkinson said: "That package is available to the elections commission once their pre-conditions are met." These include a fully functioning elections commission, a secure building to house the electoral body, and the government's approval of a budget for the commission. But he said the amalgamation of the national registration centre and the elections commission could prove to be a "contentious issue."

The chairman said opposition leader Desmond Hoyte had reservations about the proposal since it had not been formally discussed with the opposition.

Meanwhile, the renovation of the commission's offices was continuing in the capital Wednesday [3 November]. Work is expected to be completed by early next month.